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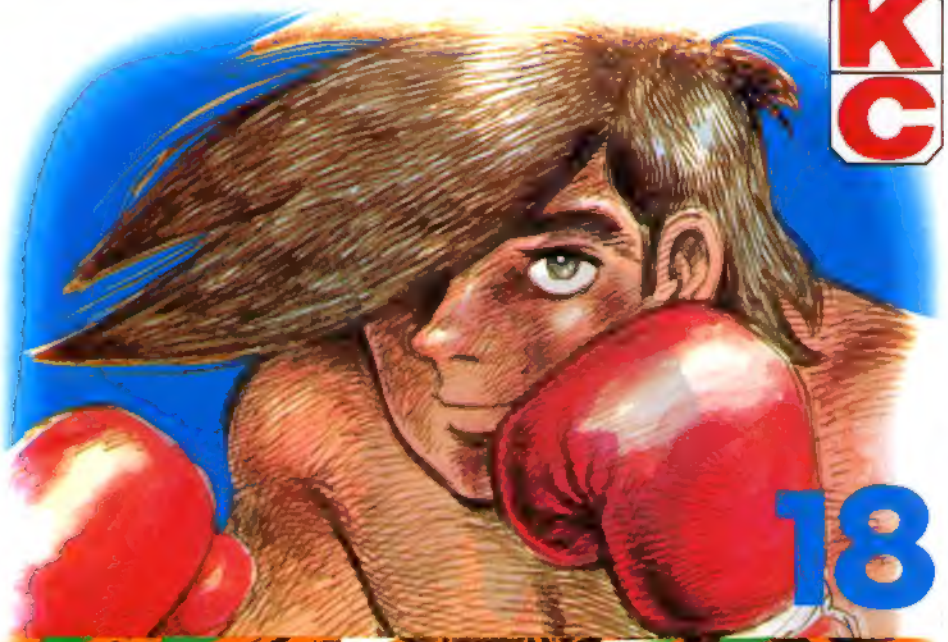

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★★★★★★★

マレーシアの密林から突如出現した無名の怪物ハリマオ！　その鋭い動物的カンと爆発的なパワーで日本ボクシング界を席巻しジョーの前に立ちはだかる。人気最高の巨編迫真の第十八弾。

★★★★★★★

オリジナルデザイン／水野石文
（水野プロダクション）

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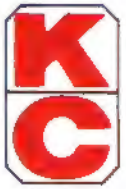

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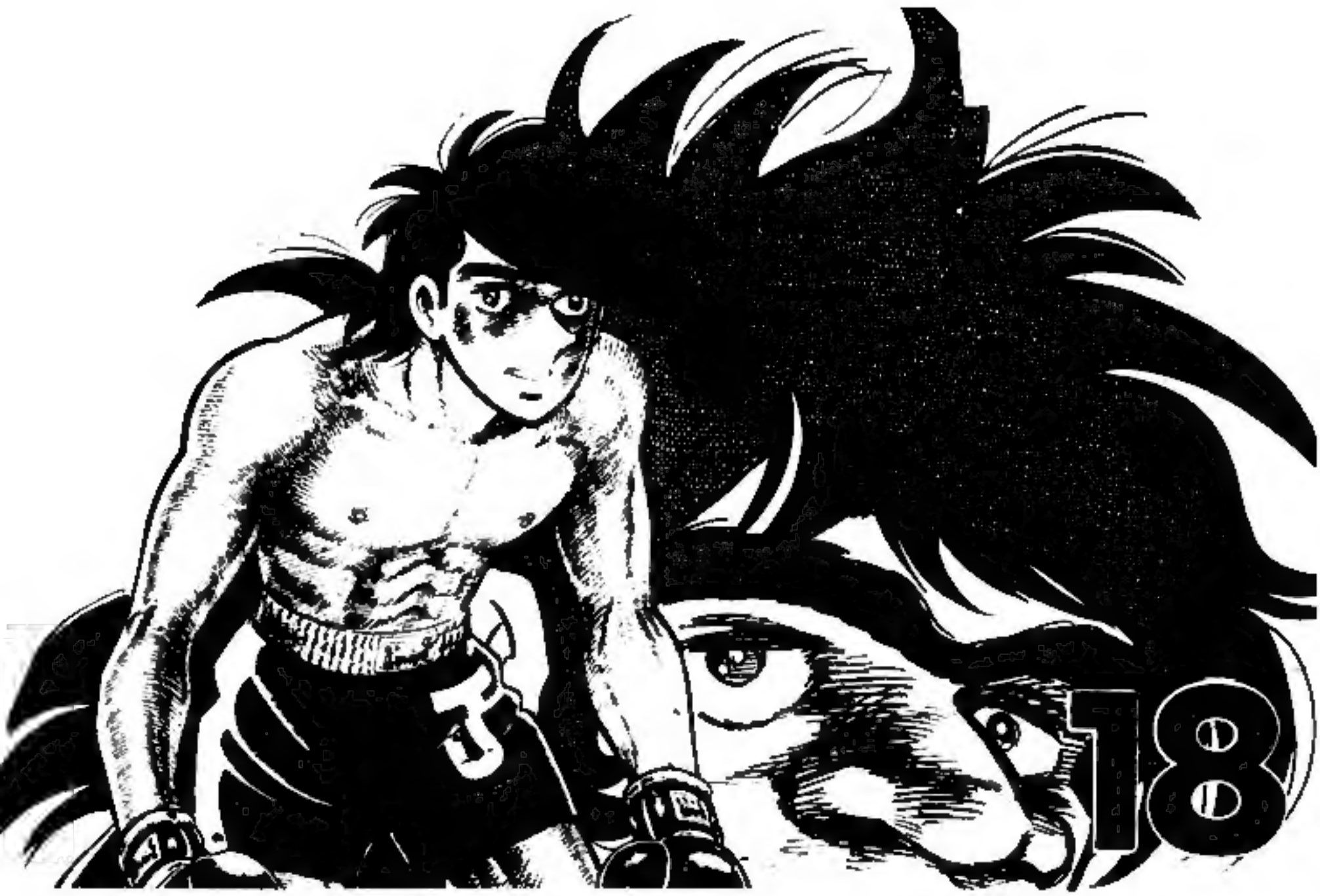


TOMORROW'S JOE

Written by Asao Takamori (Kajiwara Ikki)
Drawn by Chiba Tetsuya

天涯の孤児矢吹　丈は、拳キチこと丹下段平に拾われてボクシング界に入り、今では〝殺し屋のジョー〟の異名をもつ人気、実力抜群のボクサーになっていた。

そして宿敵力石徹を倒し、世界六位のカーロス・リベラを倒し、さらに韓国の東洋バンタム級チャンピオン金竜飛に挑戦して見事に王座を獲得した。

やがてタイトル防衛戦のため、丈はハワイに遠征し、ピナン・サラワクと対戦したが、不敵にも相手を二回でKOの予告宣言を実行して観客を湧かせた。

勝利と祝福に包まれて帰国した丈だったが、その心は早くもボクサーとしての最大の夢、世界タイトルマッチへととんでいた。相手は、世界の輝ける巨人チャンピオン、ホセ・メンドーサ……。

★前巻までのあらすじ★

THERE'S APPARENTLY A MATCH AIRING LIVE RIGHT NOW.
HEY,

HMM...

AND TAKIGAWA SHUUHEI, WHO'S RANKED 8TH.
LET'S SEE... BETWEEN 6TH RANKED BANTAMWEIGHT IN THE PACIFIC, YOSHIOKA MITSURU,

BETWEEN WHO?

BUT EVER SINCE THE START OF THIS YEAR, HE'S BEEN ON A HOT KO-WIN STREAK.

HE USED TO BE A NAMELESS BOXER FROM A SMALL GYM,

HE'S DOING PRETTY WELL THESE DAYS.

OH, I KNOW TAKIGAWA.

DO YOU WANT TO WATCH?

SENPAI, THEY'RE BROADCASTING A MATCH RIGHT NOW.

PRETTY IMPRES-SIVE.

HMM,

NOT INTERESTED.

SENPAI?

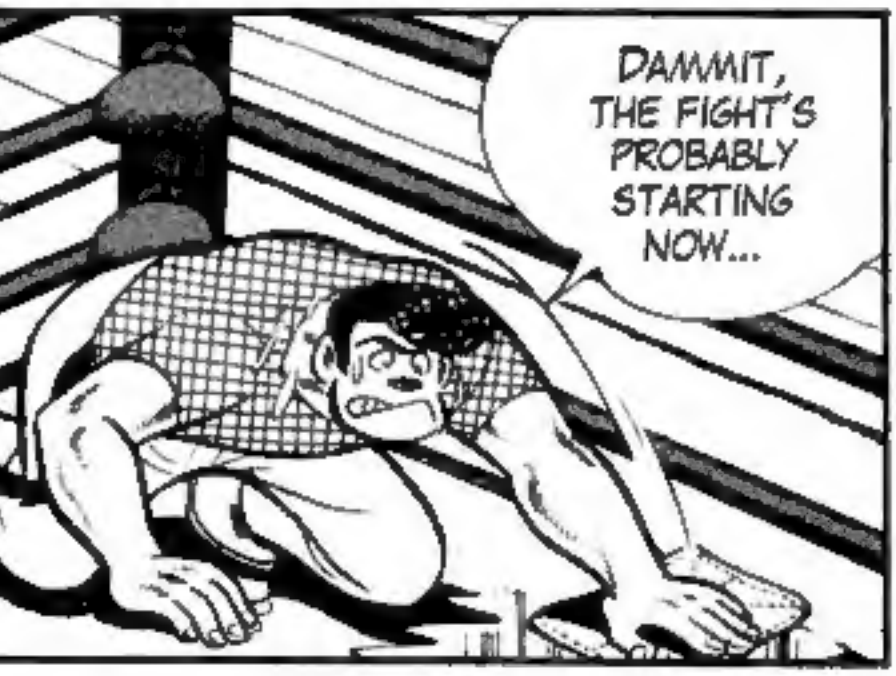
CAN WE GO UPSTAIRS AND WATCH A BOXING MATCH ON TV?
UMM,
WHAT IS IT?

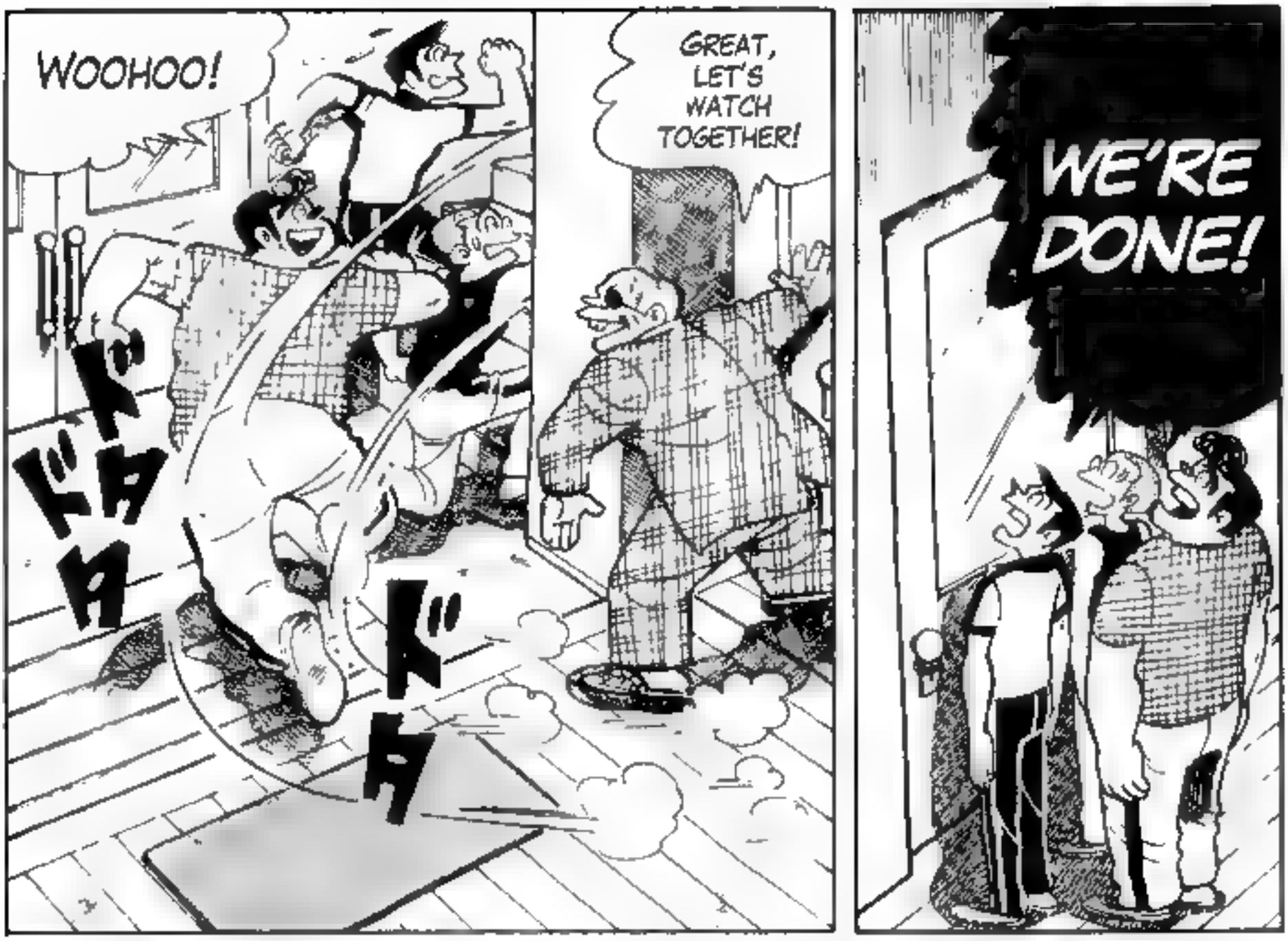
SIR...

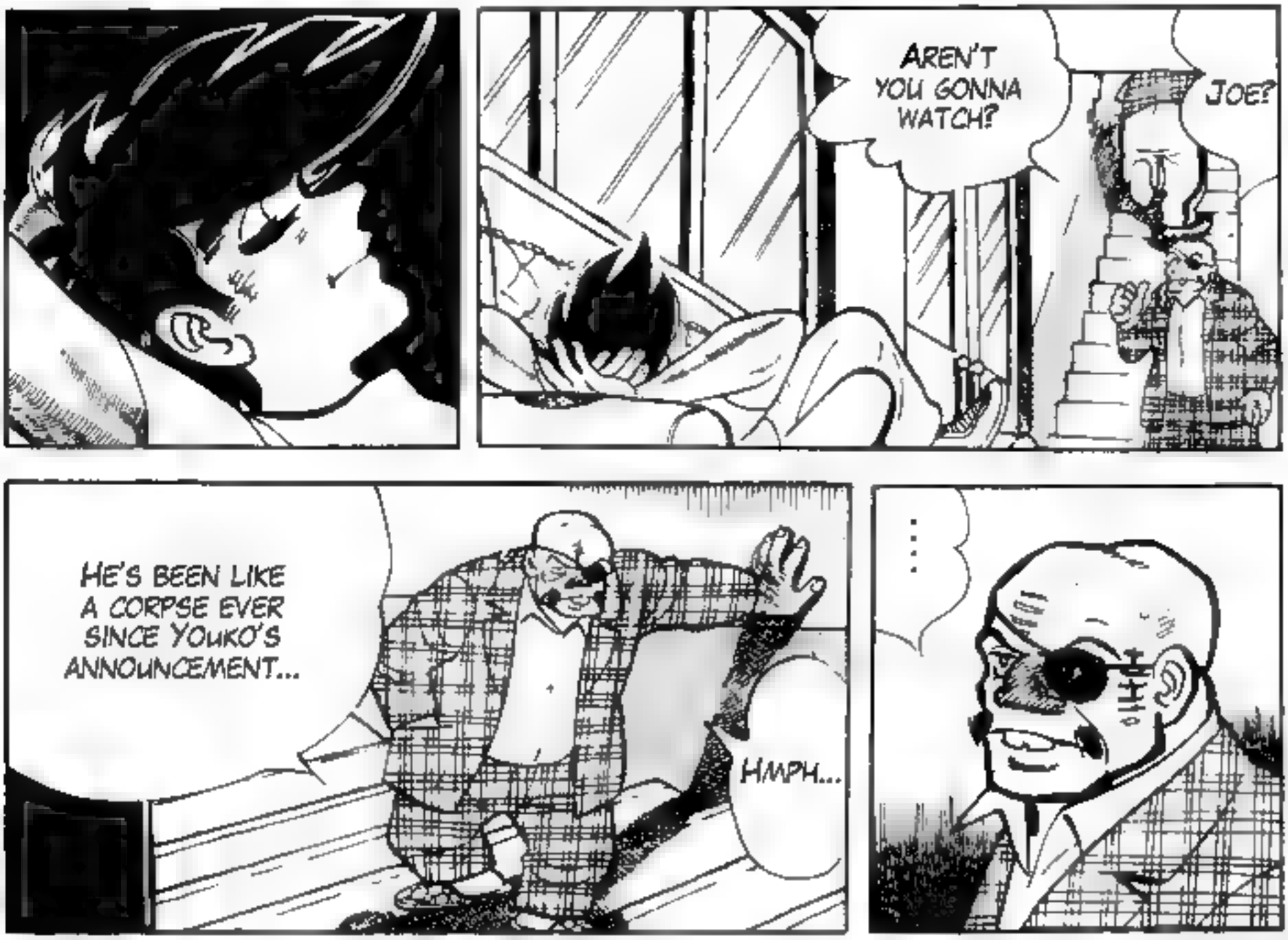
JUST ABOUT.
UH HUH.
ARE YOU DONE CLEANING?

BASTARD...
SON OF A...

COME BACK AFTER YOU'RE DONE.


DAMMIT, THE FIGHT'S PROBABLY STARTING NOW...


WOOHOO!
ドドド
GREAT, LET'S WATCH TOGETHER!
WE'RE DONE!


AREN'T YOU GONNA WATCH?
JOE?
HE'S BEEN LIKE A CORPSE EVER SINCE YOUKO'S ANNOUNCEMENT...
HMPH...
.....

THEY'RE THROWING SOME FIERCE PUNCHES AND SHOWING ADEPT DEFENSIVE MANEUVERS!

BOTH FIGHTERS ARE LIVING UP TO THEIR REPUTATION AS RANKED BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHTERS!

THAT'S IT, TAKIGAWA!

COME ON! TURN AROUND HIM!

I THINK IT'S YOU WHO SHOULDN'T BE STANDING!

ATTACK FROM BELOW! BELOW!

YOU IDIOT! DON'T JUST STAND THERE IN ONE PLACE!

AND A KILLER CROSS COUNTER!

NO MATTER HOW HOT TAKIGAWA IS RIGHT NOW, YOSHIOKA'S GOT BOTH EXPERIENCE,

HEY, WHO DO YOU THINK'LL WIN?

OBVIOUSLY THE HIGHER-RANKING YOSHIOKA.

COME ON, YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

THERE! TAKIGAWA LANDS ANOTHER HIT!

DAMN IT! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, YOSHIOKA!?

LOOK, TAKIGAWA'S BEEN ON THE OFFENSIVE ALL THROUGHOUT THIS ROUND.

PSH. YOSHIOKA AIN'T NOTHING.

S-SORRY...

ｷｭｯ

STOP YELLING, I CAN'T HEAR THE MATCH.

STOP STANDING THERE, YOU DUMBASS!

USE YOUR FREAKIN' FEET!

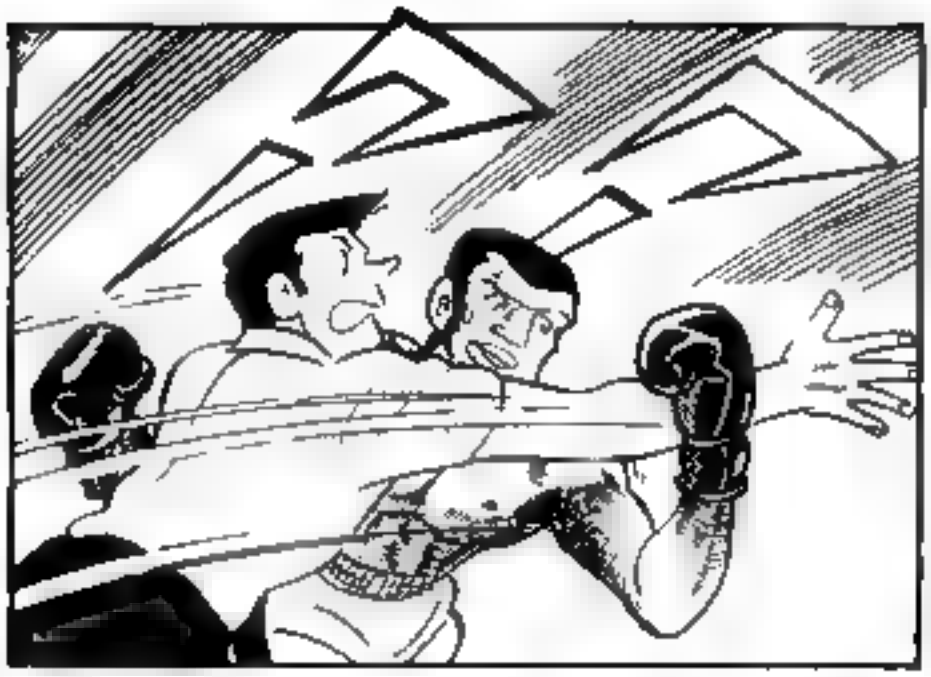
AHH! TAKIGAWA CONNECTS A COUNTER WITH A RIGHT HOOK TO YOSHIOKA'S CHIN!

HE'S IN TROUBLE NOW!

YOSHIOKA'S LEGS SEEM DONE FOR!

A FIERCE LIVER BLOW!

TAKIGAWA USES THE SUCCESSIVE LEFT HOOKS HE'S FAMOUS FOR!



AND HE'S DOWN!
YOSHIOKA GOES DOWN!

HE LOOKS IN PAIN!
I DON'T THINK HE CAN STAND...

BUT HE CAN'T!

HE TRIES...

THE 6TH AND 8TH RANKED PACIFIC BANTAMWEIGHTS HAVE NOW SWAPPED RANKS!

TAKIGAWA SHUUHEI WINS A CLEAR KO-VICTORY HERE IN THE 7TH ROUND!

HE CANNOT STAND!

"UU"

WHAT AN IDIOT!

IF YOSHIOKA ONLY USED MORE OF HIS SPEED INSTEAD OF JUST STANDING THERE...

SEE, WHAT'D I TELL YA?

MAN, TAKIGAWA'S GOOD.

DAMN IT...

LOSER!

GO TO HELL!

AS LONG AS TAKIGAWA CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AT HIS CURRENT PACE, IF YABUKI JOE SUCCEEDS IN TAKING THE WORLD-TITLE,

TAKIGAWA'S A RARE FIGHTER WHO HAS BOTH POWER AND HIGH TECHNICAL SKILLS.

I TOLD YOU TO KEEP IT DOWN!

THEN TAKIGAWA IS A GOOD CANDIDATE TO BECOMING THE NEXT PACIFIC BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION.

SEEMS TO BE TAKIGAWA'S MANAGER AND GYM OWNER, MR. YOKOKURA.

BUT THE HAPPIEST MAN OF THE HOUR,

SSSHH...

"IF YABUKI JOE SUCCEEDS," THEY SAID.

HEY, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR SENPAI.

JUST LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS, CLUTCHING ONTO HIS GYM'S STAR!

ALTHOUGH YOKOKURA GYM HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THE START OF THE POST-WAR PERIOD, IT HAD NOT BEEN BLESSED WITH A SKILLED PLAYER UNTIL NOW.

WOULD UNDER-STAND THE JOY IN WATCHING THE PLAYER YOU RAISED RISE UP EVEN BY A SINGLE RANK...

NONE OF YOU...

BUT ACTING LIKE THAT JUST BECAUSE HIS PLAYER ROSE TWO RANKS? COME ON!

WHAT IS HE, GAY? I'D UNDERSTAND IF THIS WERE A WORLD-TITLE MATCH OR SOMETHING,

YEAH, TALK ABOUT CRINGE-WORTHY!

CRYBABY.

HE WAS CRYING! HEE HEE.

DID YOU SEE?

NOW THAT YOU'RE 6TH, YOU'RE ALMOST AT THE POINT WHERE YOU CAN EVEN CHALLENGE THE CHAMPION!

YOU DID IT TAKIGAWA! YOU REALLY DID IT!

I'M... I'M GLAD THAT YOU CARE ABOUT ME SO DEEPLY, SIR.

LOOKS LIKE ALL THE LOANS I TOOK JUST TO KEEP THE GYM RUNNING WERE WORTH IT AFTER ALL!

JUST YOU WAIT, I'LL BRING THE PACIFIC TITLE-BELT TO YOKOKURA GYM SOON ENO-

THE OWNER OF SHIRAKI GYM!

I- IT'S...

CONGRATULATIONS, TO BOTH YOU AND YOUR PLAYER.

CON- GRATU- LATIONS.

A WONDERFUL KO WIN.

MR. YOKOKURA,

T-THANK YOU, MA'AM...

UMM...

DON'T FORGET TO THANK HER NOW.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SINCE YOUR PLAYER WON.

HM?

I'D LIKE TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU DOWNSTAIRS AT THE RESTAURANT IF YOU DON'T MIND.

I'LL GO WITH HER AND SEE WHAT SHE WANTS.

YOU GUYS CAN GET CHANGED AND HEAD BACK HOME NOW.

OH?

HAD YOSHIOKA WON TONIGHT'S MATCH, I'D BE TALKING TO HIS MANAGER RIGHT NOW.

HAVE SOME GOOD DREAMS TONIGHT!

TAKI-GAWA,

WHILE I BORROW YOUR MANAGER FOR A BIT.

EXCUSE ME THEN,

HAHAHA!

HEH HEH.

HERE'S YOUR DRINK, MISS.

WELL... I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME GETTING TO THE POINT STRAIGHT AWAY.

NOT AT ALL!

.....
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?
AH-
YES?
T-THE THING YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IS...
DON'T TELL ME...
D...

IN RETURN FOR THE RIGHTS TO A PACIFIC TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH THAT YABUKI MUST FIRST FIGHT...
I HEARD THAT YOU GAVE AWAY YOUR NEGOTIATION RIGHTS BETWEEN MENDOZA AND YABUKI'S WORLD-TITLE MATCH,
AND WHAT IF I DID?
D-DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU CALLED ME OUT TO TALK TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU WANT MY TAKIGAWA TO CHALLENGE YABUKI FOR THE TITLE NOW...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DID ALL THAT BUT...
KOKOKU

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN RISK HIM FIGHTING A RISING STAR LIKE YABUKI WHO'S GOT LITERALLY KILLING POWER IN HIS PUNCHES!

TAKIGAWA'S THE GOLDEN EGG MY GYM'S FINALLY BIRTHED AFTER 20 BITTER YEARS.

NOT NO WAY, NOT NO HOW!

N-N-NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

SO LET'S JUST PRETEND THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION NEVER HAPPENED.

I HAVE TO EVER SO CAREFULLY ALLOW HIM TO MATURE FIRST...

O-OH...

I BELIEVE YOU'LL BE QUITE PLEASED AT WHAT I'M REALLY HERE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

I'M JOKING, I'M JOKING.

HAHA!

AND FOR HIS DEBUT FIGHT IN JAPAN, I WAS HOPING I COULD BORROW YOUR PLAYER.

IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO BRING OVER A BANTAMWEIGHT BOXER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHO'S YET UNRANKED.

MY SHIRAKI PROMOTIONS OFFICE,

T-TWO...

MILLION YEN!?

I AM WILLING TO PAY YOUR PLAYER 2 MILLION YEN, WHETHER OR NOT HE WINS.

FOR THE FIGHT MONEY...

AN UNRANKED BOXER FROM OVERSEAS...?

W...

WHY ARE YOU OFFERING SUCH A RIDICULOUS SUM...?

TWO MILLION FOR JUST ONE MATCH...!?

YES. AND IF YOU WANT, I'M PERFECTLY WILLING TO PAY UP-FRONT AS WELL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPLY NOW SO PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT...

IN ANY CASE, THE CHOICE IS ALL YOURS.

W-WAIT A MOMENT...

HAHA...

"THE RANDOM WHIMS OF A RICH LADY," I SUPPOSE SOME WOULD SAY.

TWO MILLION'S WHAT A CHAMPION MIGHT EARN IN A PACIFIC TITLE-MATCH.

BUT SHE'S OFFERING THAT MUCH JUST TO HAVE TAKIGAWA FIGHT AN UNRANKED BOXER

TWO MILLION WHETHER HE WINS OR LOSES...

IF I WERE TALKING TO ANY OTHER PERSON, I'D ACCUSE YOU OF PULLING MY LEG...

BUT SINCE YOU ARE THE HEIRESS TO SHIRAKI ZAIBATSU,

NO, THERE'S NO WAY HE'D LOSE!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR TAKIGAWA TO LOSE TO AN UNRANKED BOXER THE WAY HE IS RIGHT NOW!

Y-YES, GLADLY!

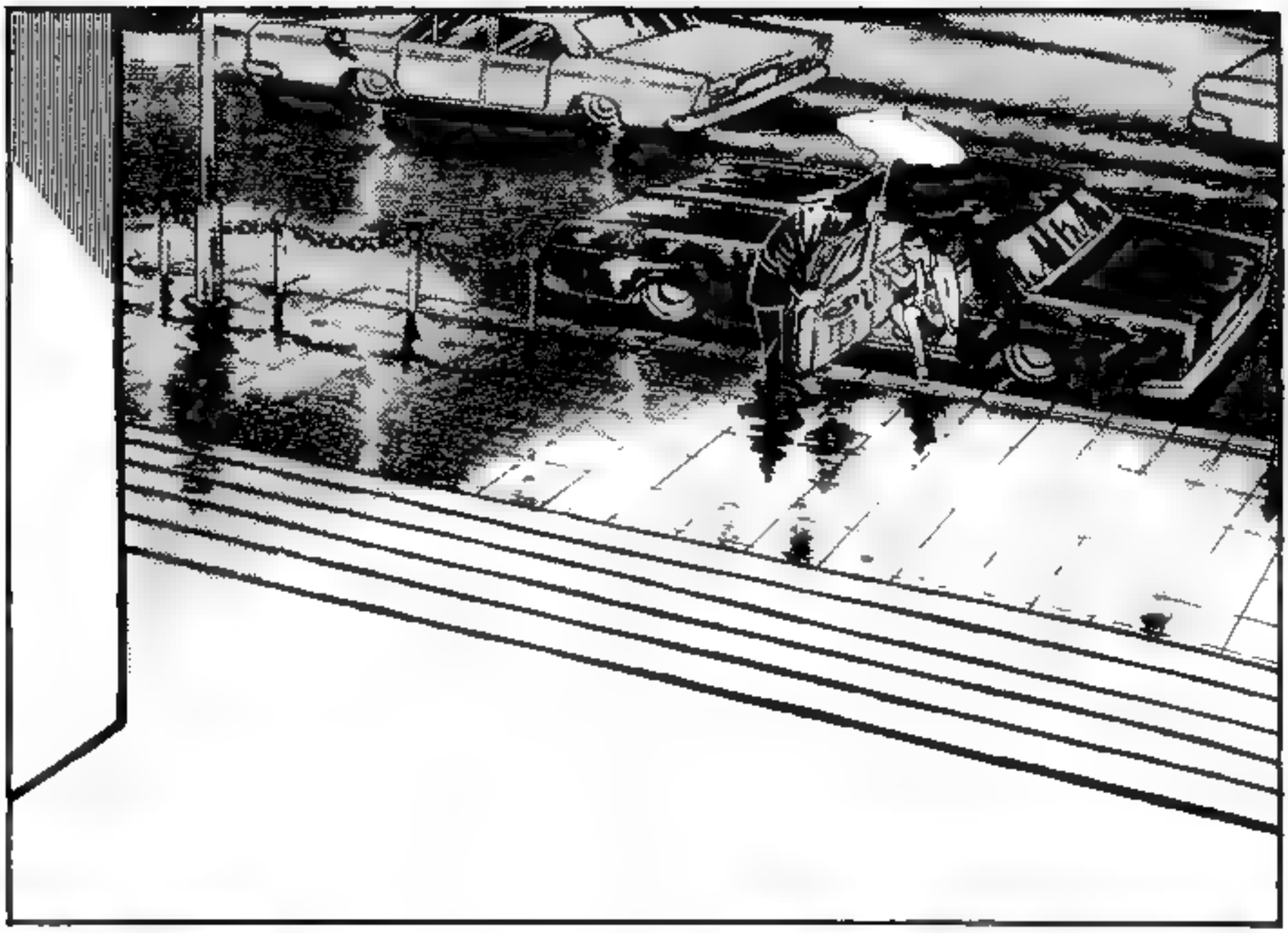
I THINK I CAN TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER WITHOUT WORRIES.

SO YOU ACCEPT?

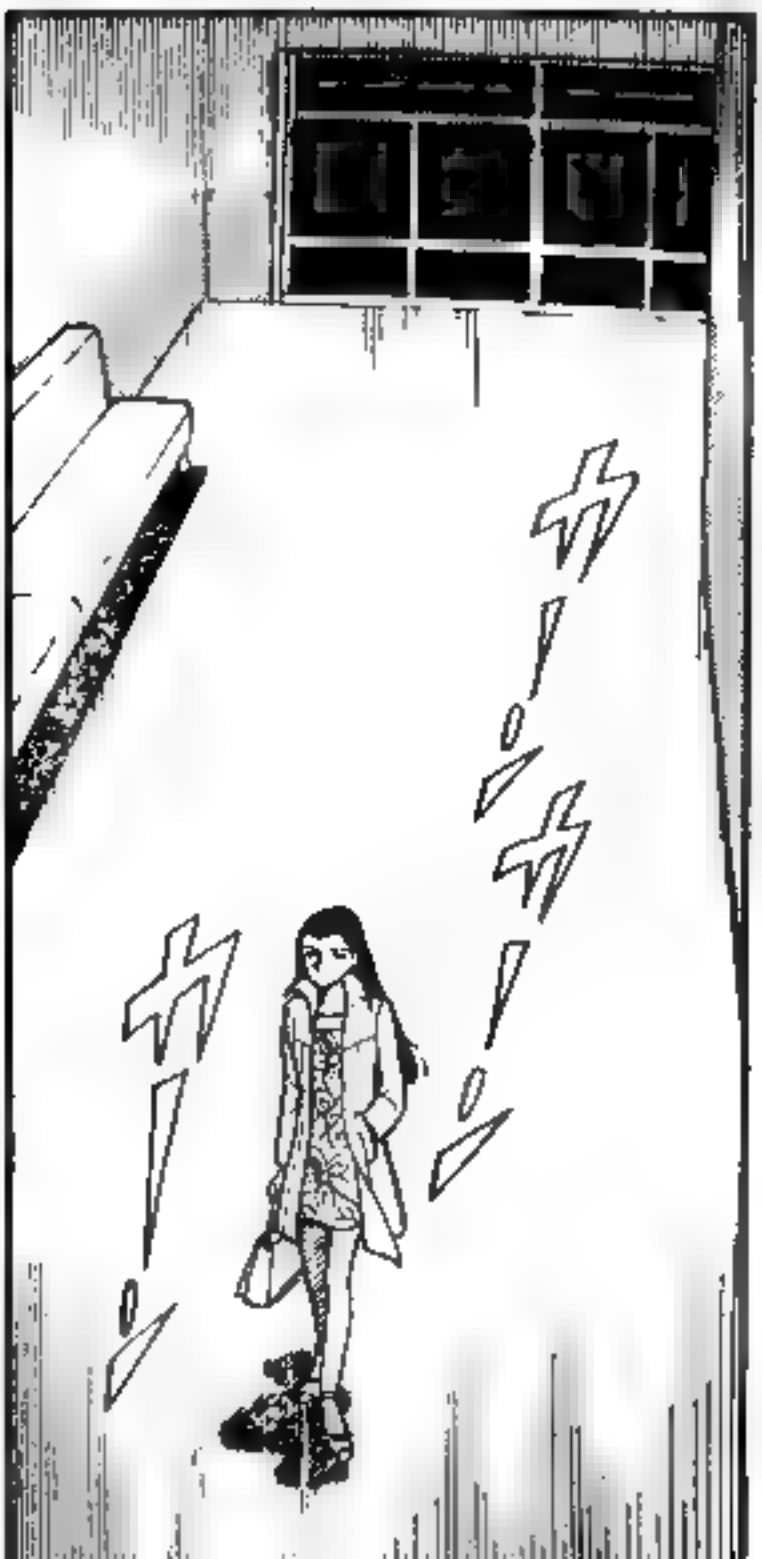
I'LL SEND OVER THE PAPERS FOR YOU TO SIGN SHORTLY.

EXCELLENT, MR. YOKOKURA.

THANK YOU, MA'AM!



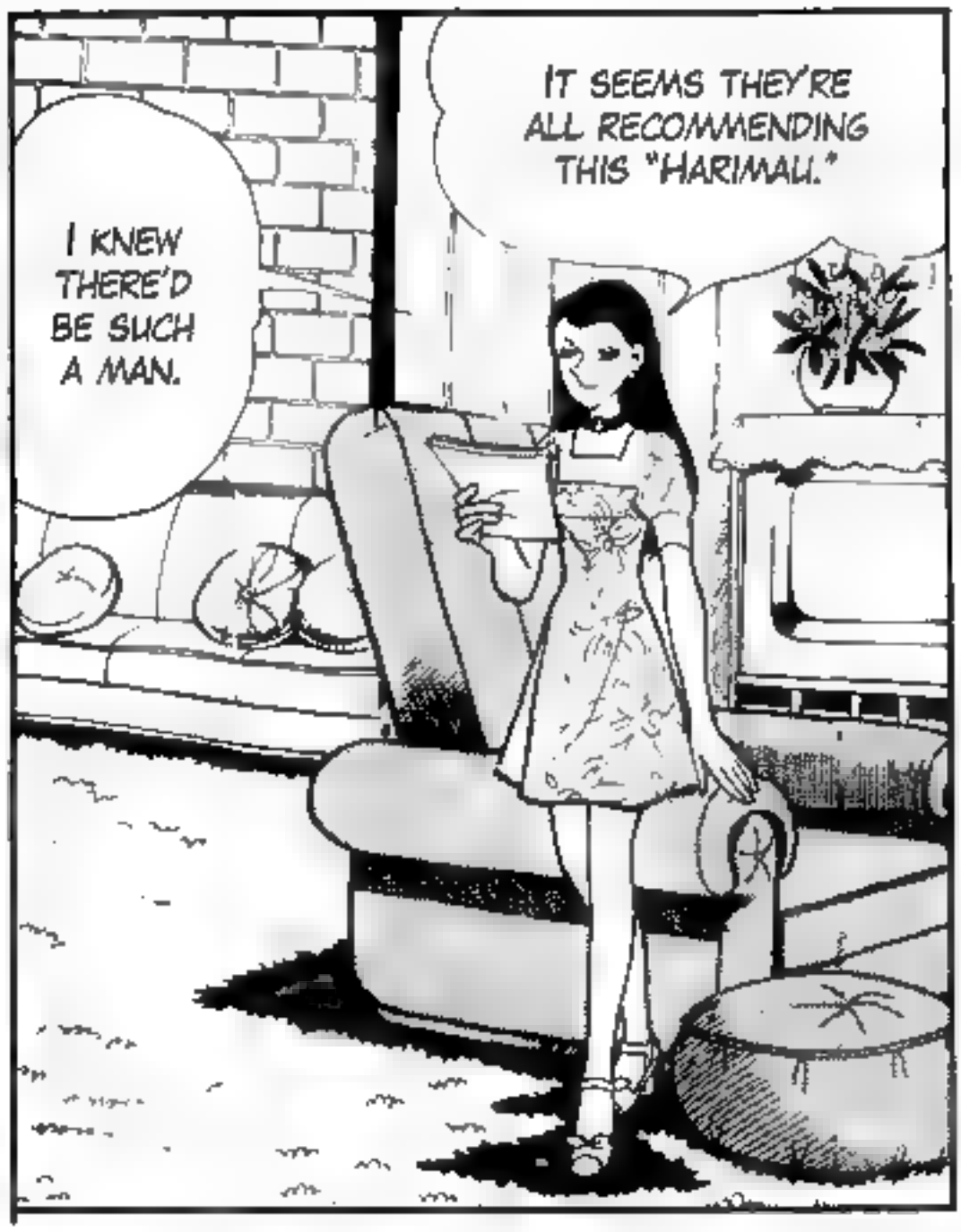
WELCOME BACK.



THANK YOU.
HERE ARE THE REPORTS THE MANAGERS HAVE SENT SO FAR ON POSSIBLE CANDIDATES.

He s a Malaysian man named Harimau There is no candidate more suitable than him!
I believe I have found the boxer you are looking for
Ms. Shiraki, I have discovered your boxer,
And his name is Harimau
Who's known for his wild and violent nature.
There's a certain obscure boxer named Harimau in Malaysia,

PLEASE TELL THE EXECUTIVES OVERSEAS,


I KNEW THERE'D BE SUCH A MAN.
IT SEEMS THEY'RE ALL RECOMMENDING THIS "HARIMAU."

YES, MA'AM.
TO BRING THIS HARIMAU TO JAPAN FROM MALAYSIA RIGHT AWAY!

INTERVIEWS ARE OPEN FOR ALL REPORTERS AND JOURNALISTS ONLY ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

-PRESIDENT TANGE DAMPEI OF TANGE GYM-

THIS IS A PICKLE...

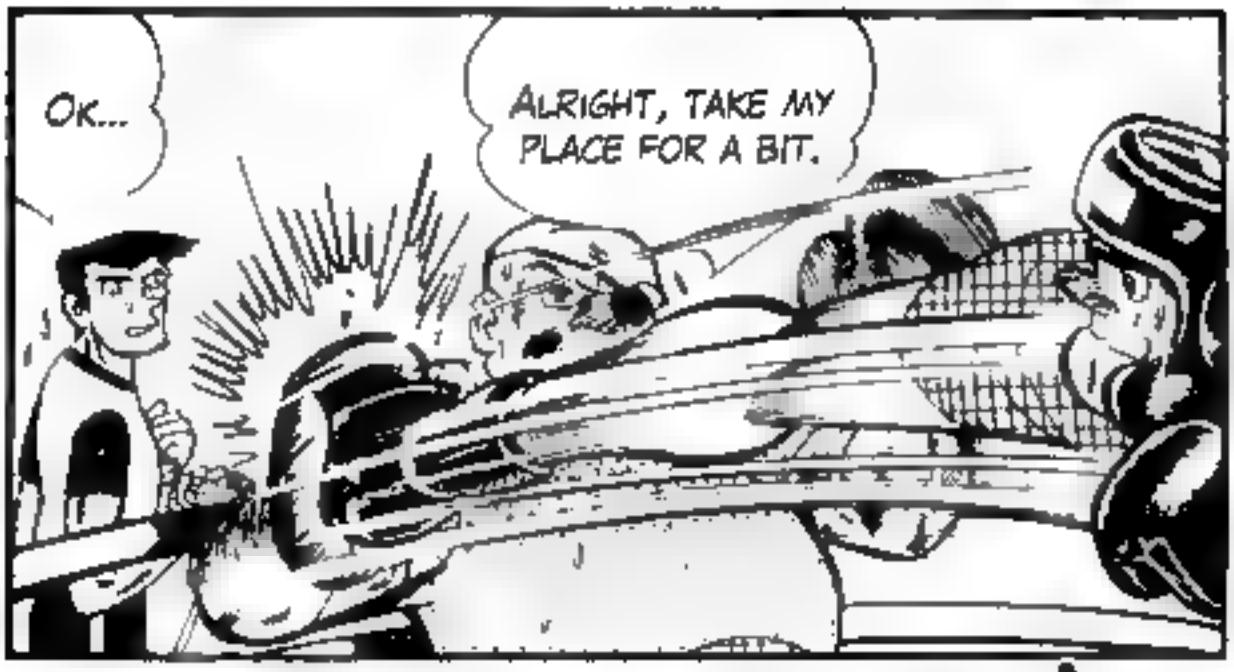
YEAH BUT YOU CAN'T SELL ANY SPORTS PAPERS OR MAGAZINES WITHOUT AN ARTICLE ON YABUKI THESE DAYS...

SHOOT. THEY'VE SET UP A STRICT TIME-SLOT.

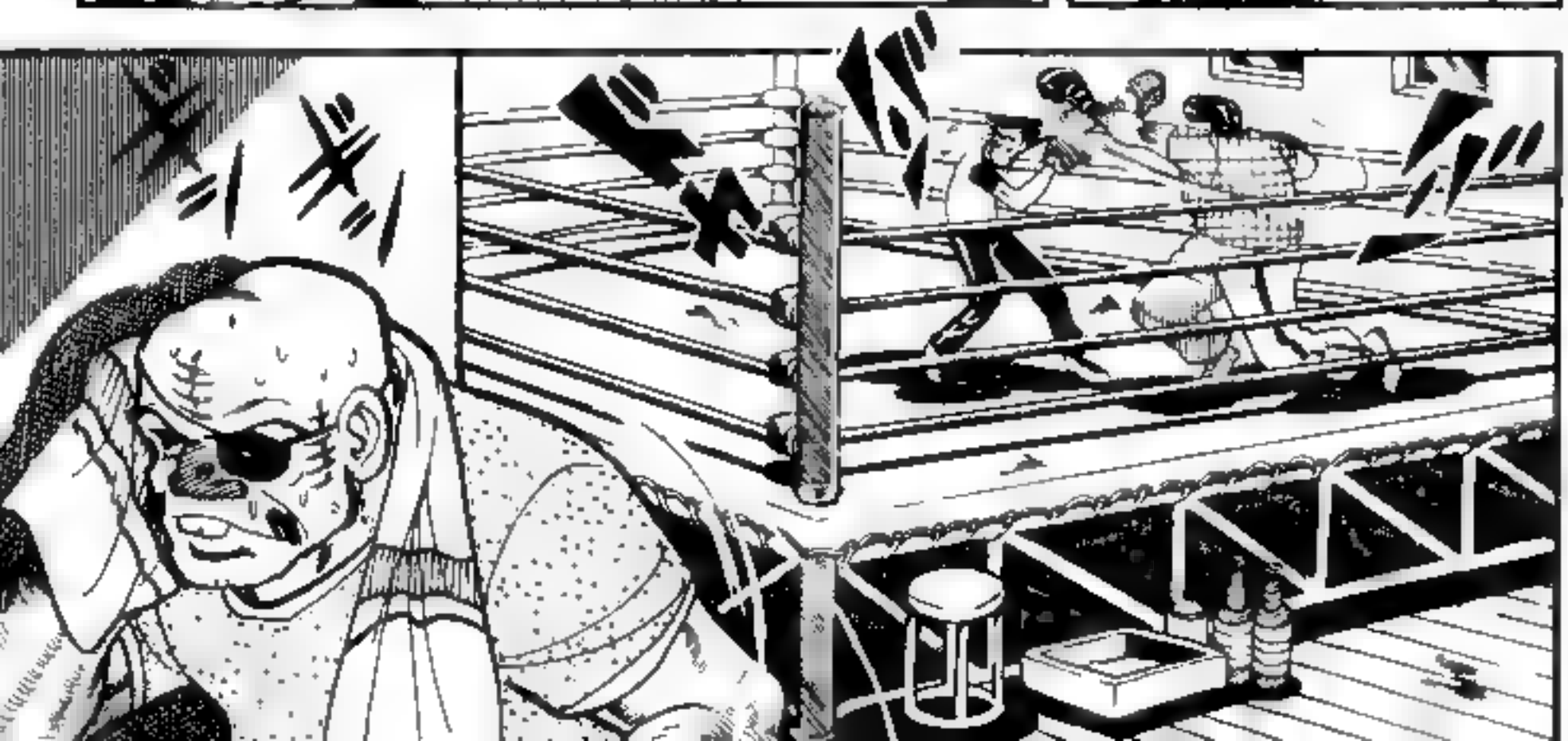
THIS RESTRICTION'S LIKE ONE FOR TOKYO GIANTS' TRAINING CAMP.

THIS IS WHY IT CAN BE A PAIN IN THE ASS WHEN ATHLETES GET TOO FAMOUS.

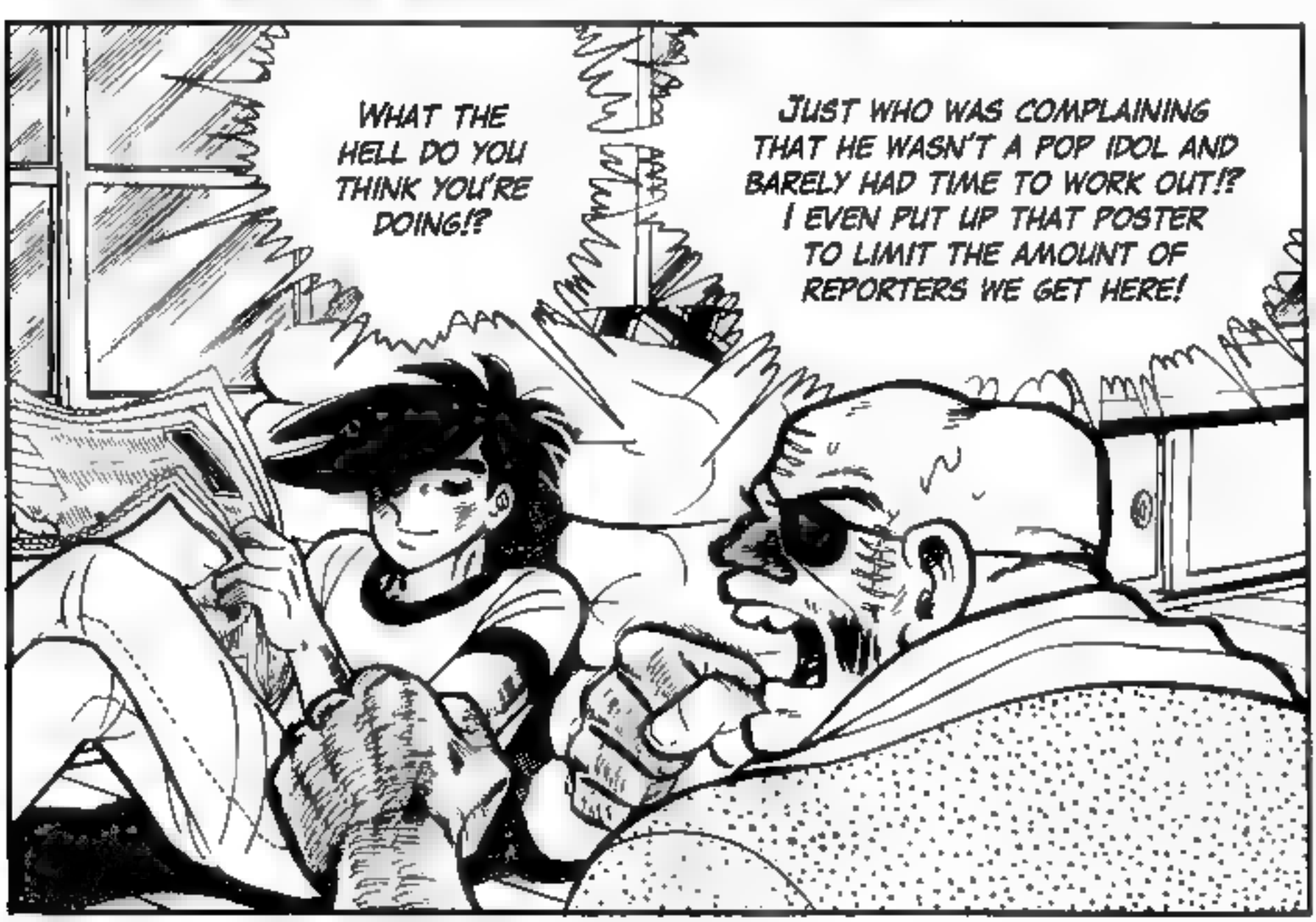
KOUNO, WHERE'S JOE?


OK...
ALRIGHT, TAKE MY PLACE FOR A BIT.

HE'S UPSTAIRS.
OH,



NOT IN THE MOOD TO TRAIN, ARE YA NOW?
SO...


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
JUST WHO WAS COMPLAINING THAT HE WASN'T A POP IDOL AND BARELY HAD TIME TO WORK OUT!? I EVEN PUT UP THAT POSTER TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF REPORTERS WE GET HERE!

BUT NO, YOU JUST *HAD* TO LET YOUKO DRAG ME AROUND WHEREVER THE HELL SHE WANTS...!

I'LL TRAIN 24/7 IF I HAVE TO IF I CAN JUST GET THAT MATCH SCHEDULED.

MAYBE YOU OUGHTA USE SOME OF THAT ENERGY TO HELP ME ARRANGE A TITLE-MATCH WITH THE CHAMP

IN-STEAD OF YEL-LING,

I'D LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO GO TO HER HOUSE AND GIVE THAT WOMAN THE BEATING SHE DESERVES BUT NOPE, I'M HOLDING IT ALL IN RIGHT NOW!

I'M ALREADY AT MY LIMIT JUST BY SITTING HERE.

IT'S FINE.

I'M DONE COUNTING ON OTHERS.

I...

I KNOW YOU REALLY DO MEAN THAT, BUT...

TO WHERE!?

T...

TONIGHT.

I'M LEAVING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT'RE YOU PACKING YOUR CLOTHES FOR?

OH, MAYBE SOME-WHERE IN LITTLE OL' MEXICO...

PLANE LEAVES LATE TONIGHT.

I GOT MY TICKETS YESTERDAY.

W-WHAT!?

HAHA, YEAH THAT'S A MYSTERY ALRIGHT. GEE, WHO WAS IN MEXICO AGAIN?

W-WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO MEXICO FOR...?

J-JOE...

THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA JUST DIRECTLY CHALLENGE MENDOZA IN MEXICO.

I'M JUST SICK AND TIRED OF GETTING DRAGGED AROUND BY THAT WOMAN.

I...

A-ARE YOU CRAZY!?

JOE, WAIT!

THERE ARE PROPER PROCEDURES AND-

A WORLD-TITLE MATCH ISN'T SOMETHING YOU JUST GO OVER AND "ASK" A GUY FOR! YOU AREN'T A GRADE-SCHOOLER PICKING A FIGHT!

T-THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT THOSE PROCEDURES. NEVER HAVE, NEVER WILL!

.....

.....

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT DIRECTOR OOHASHI WOULD SAY IF I TOLD HIM THAT-

ENOUGH WITH YOUR INSANITIES!

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

THE GUY WHOSE ASS I WANNA KICK IS IN MEXICO, SO THAT'S WHERE I'LL GO.

SEE YA THEN.

NEITHER YOKO NOR ANY OF THE GUYS AT KANTO TV ARE GONNA STOP ME!

LET GO OF ME!

I DO WHAT I WANT TO DO!

HEY, YABUKI!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YABUKI, ARE YOU HEADING OUT?

YABUKI, WAIT!

SENPAI!

HEY, YABUKI!

HEY, COME ON!

TIME
19
42
AIR-
AIR-
AIRPORT BUS
TO DOWN-TXN HOTEL
I'VE STILL GOT QUITE A BIT OF TIME LEFT...

HUH?

GOD, THEY'RE LIKE COCK-ROACHES
THE REPORTERS ARE ALREADY HERE TO AMBUSH ME?

CAN'T LET THEM NOTICE ME...

ONE OF MY GYM'S MANAGERS IS ESCORTING HIM.
YES.
THE BOXER SET TO FIGHT TAKIGAWA WILL BE ARRIVING AT 8 O'CLOCK ON MALAYSIA AIRLINES, CORRECT?
SO THEN, MS. SHIRAKI.

HAHA... OH, YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH WHEN HE ARRIVES.

I BELIEVE YOU MENTIONED HE WAS A BEAST EARLIER?

SO WHAT KIND OF BOXER IS HE?

Y-YOUKO!

IT SEEMS THOSE REPORTERS DIDN'T COME HERE TO CHASE AFTER ME.

A BEAST...?

IS THAT HIS RING-NAME?

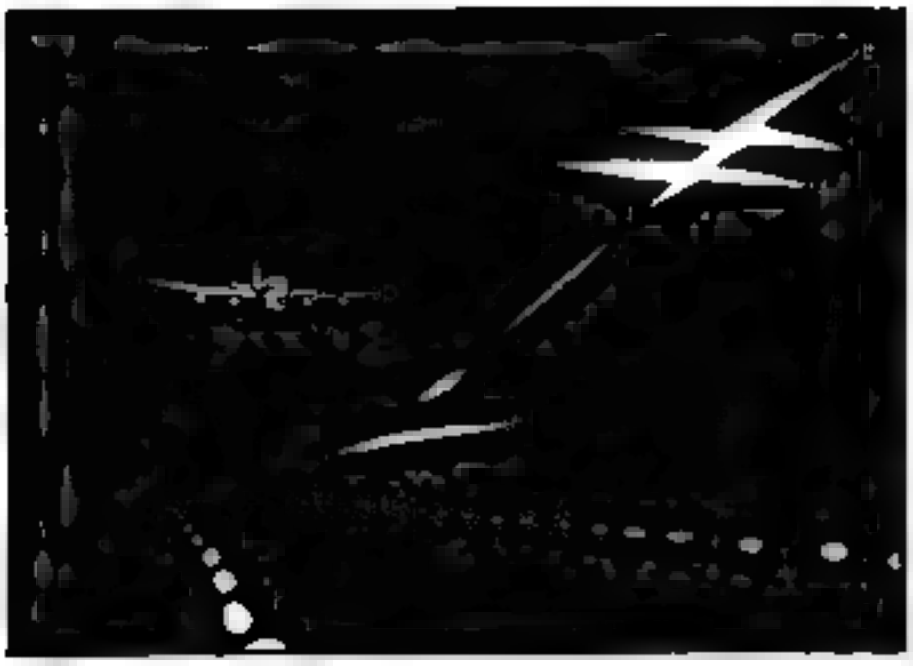
IS IT TRUE THAT THE NAME "HARIMAU" MEANS TIGER IN MALAY?

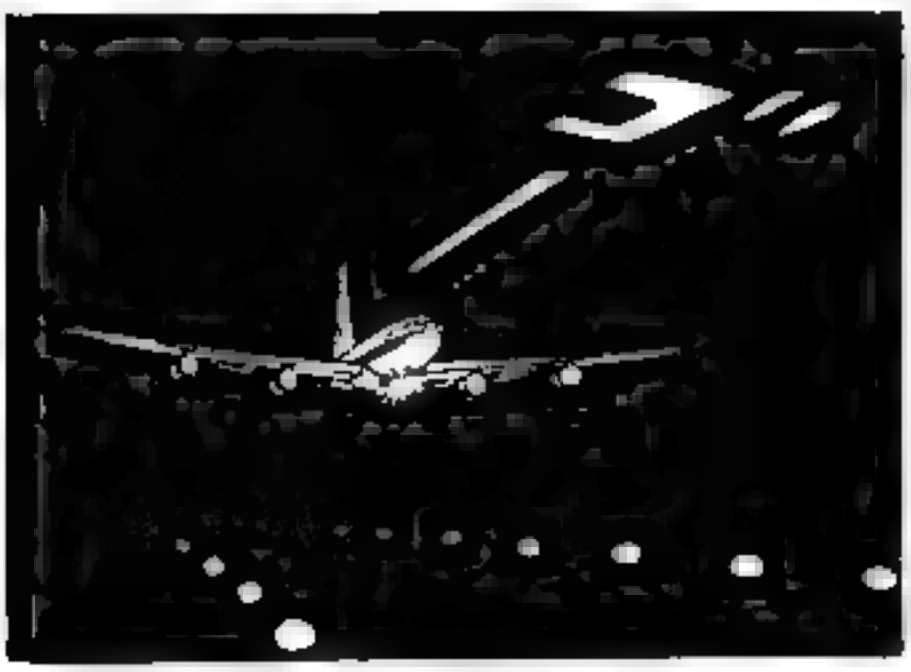
LET'S WAIT BY THE ARRIVAL ENTRANCES.

IT'S ALMOST TIME.

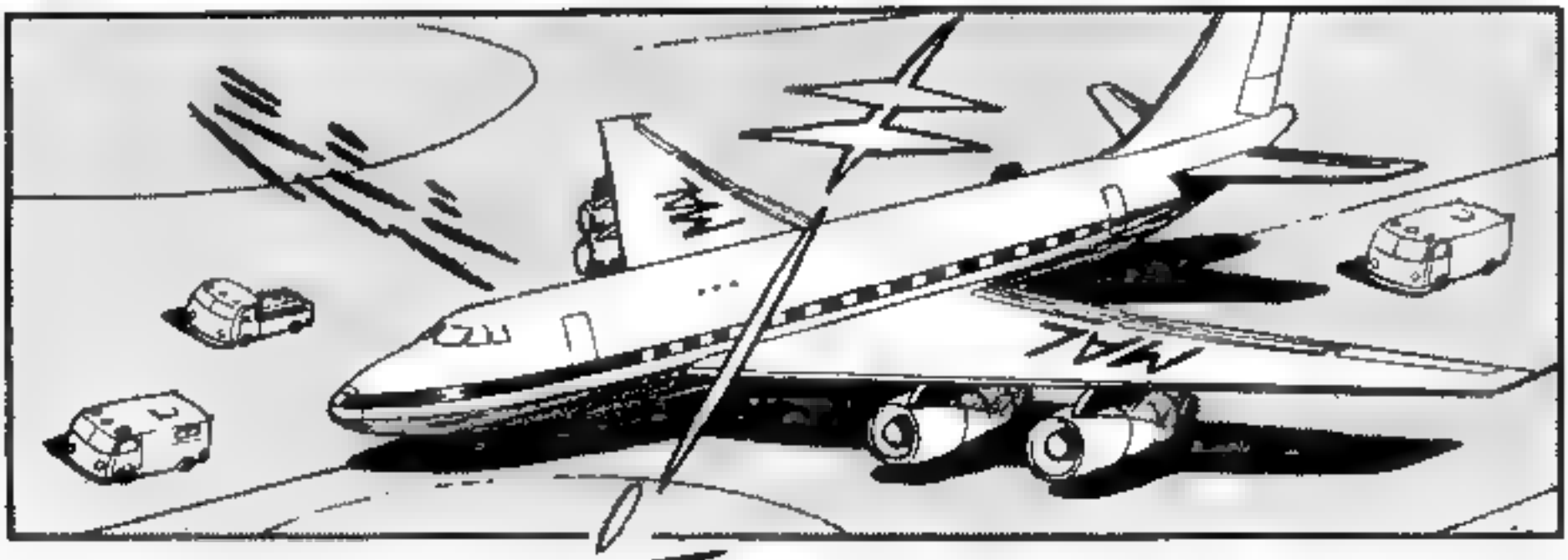
BUT SOMETIME AFTER, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHEN, THE PEOPLE ALL STARTED CALLING HIM HARIMAU INSTEAD.

NO, HE ACTUALLY HAD A MUCH FANCIER RING-NAME WHEN HE FIRST MADE HIS DEBUT,



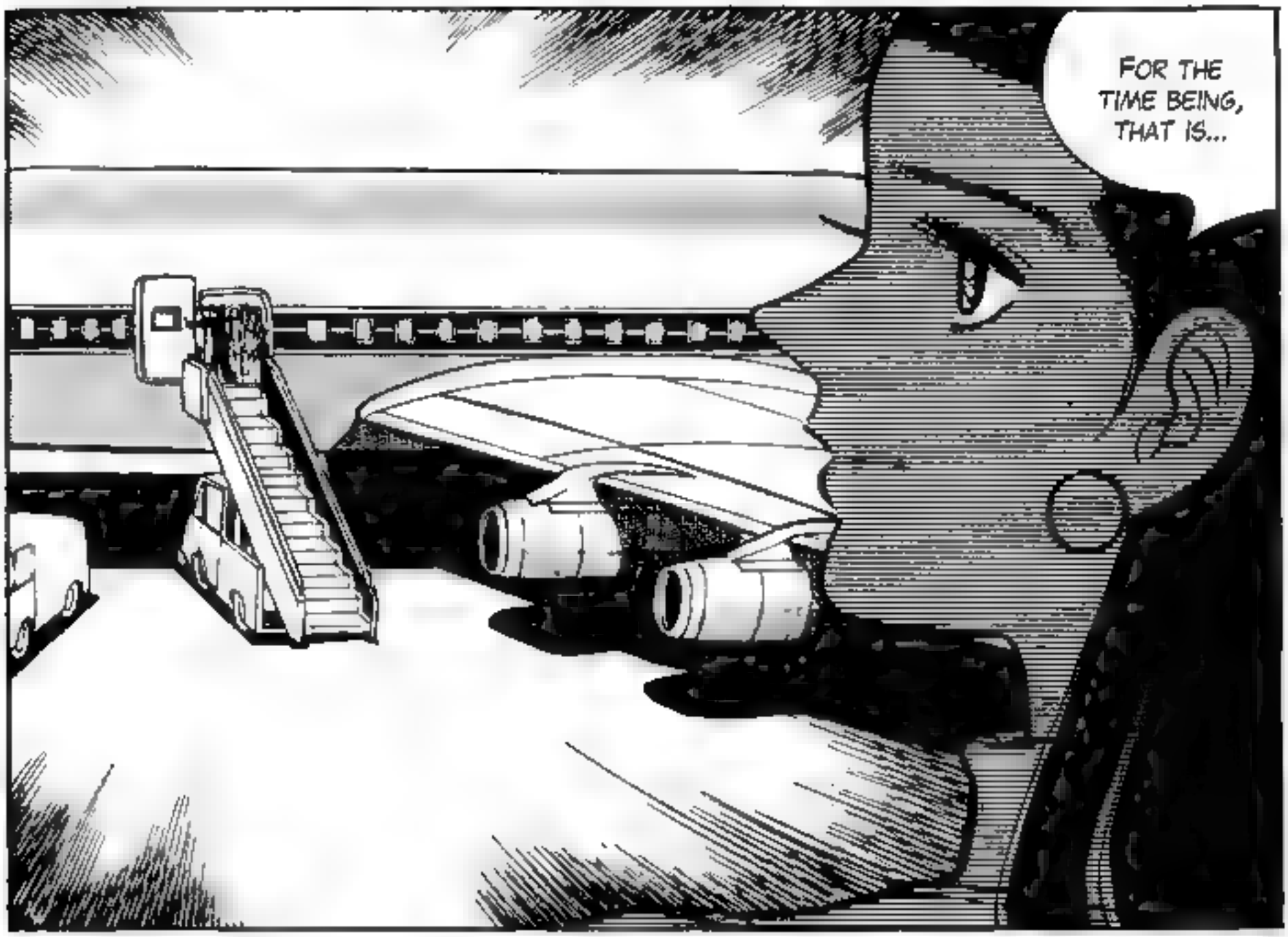


IT GOES TO SHOW YOU HOW THE FANS SENSED A RAW FEROCITY ABOUT HIM THAT NO FANCY RING-NAME CAN AFFECT.
I SEE...



TO FIGHT TAKIGAWA SHUUHEI...!
HE'LL SOON STEP OFF FROM THE PLANE,

THE PLANE HAS ARRIVED.


FOR THE TIME BEING, THAT IS...

OHHHH!
RAHHH!
ACK!
AHHH!
KYAAA!

I SAID CALM DOWN, HARIMAU!
C-CALM DOWN!
RGAHHHH!
HARIMAU!

THAT'S HARIMAU!

YES.

.....

AHH...

WHAT IN THE...

IS... IS THAT THE BOXER YOUR PROMOTIONS OFFICE HAS INVITED OVER TO JAPAN...?

S-STAY PUT, HARIMAU!

GRRROOOWL!

RAWR!

THIS WAY, HARIMAU.

GRRR...

HE'S COMING THIS WAY!

HE SURE IS TROUBLESOME, ISN'T HE...

HE'S COMING OUT.

HELLO, MA'AM.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU AGREED WITH THE MAN WE SCOUTED OUT.

GOOD WORK, GENTLEMEN.

CALM DOWN!

H-HEY!

GRAAWWRR!

GRR...

HE ALSO ONLY SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE OF HIS NATIVE TRIBE SO TAKING ANY QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE HE HAD TO SIT STILL ON A SMALL AIRPLANE SEAT, BUT HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE LANDED.

GRRR...

I SEE... WHAT A PITY.

NOW JUST CALM DOWN.

L-LOOK! IT'S YOUR FAVOURITE, CHOCOLATE!

TO FIGHT TAKIGAWA WHO'S ON FIRE WITH HIS 8 CONSECUTIVE KO-WIN STREAK?

IS IT REALLY FINE FOR THIS GORILLA-MAN,

HOW OLD IS HE?

C-CAN THIS MAN REALLY EVEN BOX?

WHAT'S HIS FIGHTING RECORD LIKE?

Y-YES OF COURSE, MA'AM.

WHY DON'T YOU ANNOUNCE SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT HARIMAU?

EVEN IF HE CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE, LET'S NOT LET ALL THESE REPORTERS DOWN.

THAT IS WHY HE CAN ONLY SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF HIS TRIBE.

HE WAS BORN DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF MALAYSIA IN A REMOTE NATIVE TRIBE.

THE TERM "FERAL CHILD" IS AN APT DESCRIPTION FOR HARIMAU.

HE IS, IN MANY WAYS, THE FERAL CHILD RAISED BY WOLVES IN LEGENDS.

HE HATES THEM.

PLEASE TURN YOUR FLASHES OFF!

BY THE AGE OF 12 OR 13, HE WAS ALREADY ABLE TO HANDLE ANY BEAST THE JUNGLE MIGHT THROW AT HIM.

AND BY 16, NO OTHER WARRIOR IN THE VILLAGE COULD BEST HARIMAU.

THAT WILDNESS IN HIM INSTILLED GREAT REFLEXES, HAND-EYE COORDINATION, AND OTHER ATHLETIC SKILLS.

HIS INTEREST IN BOXING LED HIM, UPON SEEING HARIMAU, TO SEE IF HE COULD TURN THE TRIBAL WARRIOR INTO A BOXER.

IS AN ENGLISH REPORTER WHO CAME TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE VILLAGE.

THE MAN WHO DIS-COVERED HIM,

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, HE WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY FOR HIS DEBUT.

HE BECAME HARIMALI'S MANAGER AND TAUGHT HIM THE RULES AND TECHNIQUES OF BOXING.

JUST AS THE ENGLISHMAN HAD SUSPECTED, HARIMALI MADE FOR AN ASTONISHING BOXER, AS HE PILED ON WIN AFTER WIN TO HIS WINNING-STREAK.

AND IS THUS CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED IN MALAYSIA AFTER AN INCIDENT IN WHICH HARIMAU PUNCHED HIM.

HE PROVED TO BE A BIT TOO CONTROLLING FOR HARIMAU'S TASTE,

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS MANAGER ISN'T HERE WITH HIM TODAY.

EEH?

HE MADE HIS DEBUT ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO, AND HAS THUS FOUGHT A MERE 17 BOUTS,

AS FOR HARIMAU'S RECORD,

T-THAT GUY WAS A REPORTER TOO...

HOSPI-TALIZED?

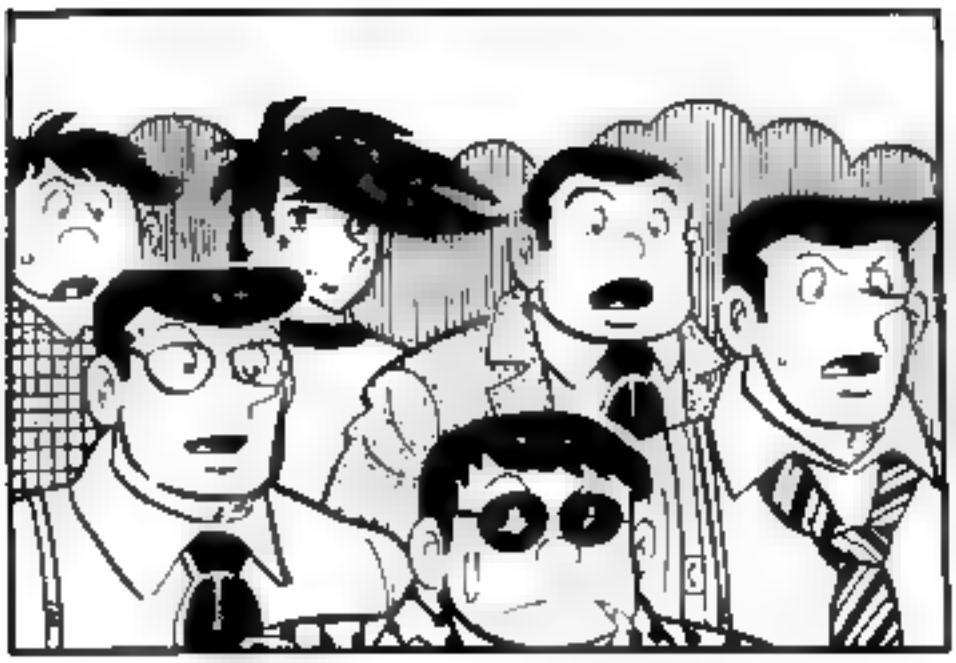
WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

A 100% KO-WIN RATE!?

GRRR...

AHHH!

BUT HE HAS WON BY KO FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM.



RAWWR...
GRRR...

HE'S BEEN STARING MY WAY EVER SINCE HE ARRIVED...
HMPH, WHAT'S WITH HIM...
TALK ABOUT CREEPY.

H-HARIMAU!
GWARRAR..
RAGHH!
AGHH! HE'S GOING BERSERK AGAIN...

C-CALM DOWN, HARIMAU!
GWAARAHH!

YABUKI!

THE PACIFIC CHAMP?

AH, IT'S YABUKI!

W-WHERE ARE YOU-

RAWWWRRRR!

STOP!

ACK!

AAAHH!

GRRR...

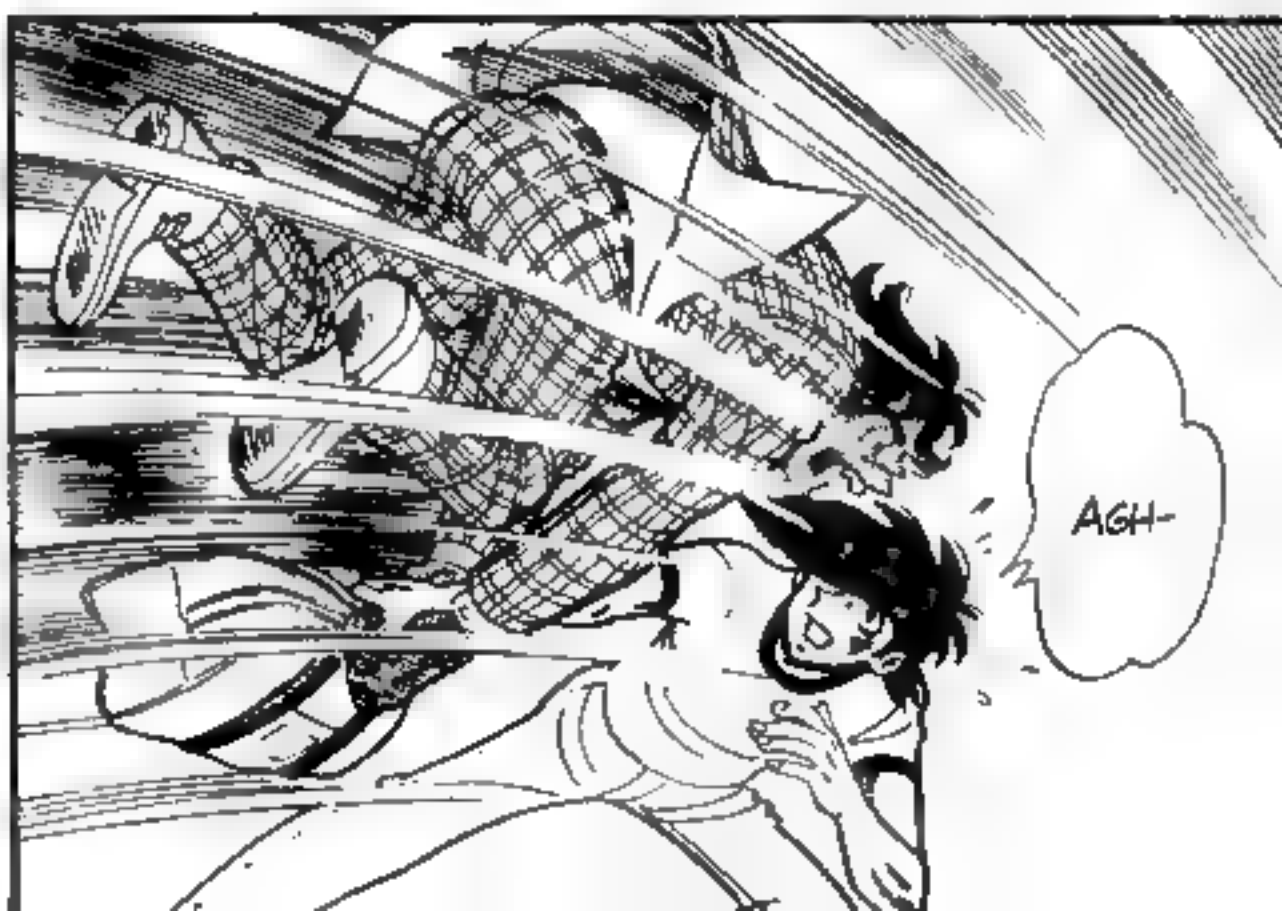
LET GO!

THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

RAWWR...
GRRR...

LET GO, YOU FREAK!

GWARRRAH!


AGH-

HOHO!

OH...

WHAT THE...

FOHH FOHH!

ズ゛゛゛

FOH FOH.

GIVE IT BACK, YOU THIEF!

DON'T TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF WITHOUT PERMISSION!

HO HO HO...

GIVE IT BACK, YOU-

D-DAMN IT...

HO!

IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME BACK MY GLOVES RIGHT NOW, THIS AIN'T GONNA END PRETTY.

LOOK.

H-HARIMAU! GIVE ME THOSE GLOVES!

HARIMAU!

SO JUST GIVE US THE GLOVES.

HERE! IT'S CHOCOLATE!

CAN'T EVEN TALK TO THAT ANIMAL!

DAMN MONKEY...

W-WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY FOR THIS, YABUKI.

HE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A LICK OF JAPANESE, YOU SEE.

WHAT, YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE A QUICK BUCK BY TURNING THAT MONKEY INTO THE MASCOT FOR YOUR SHIRAKI PROMOTIONS OFFICE?

HAHA... LURED OVER ANOTHER WEIRDO TO JAPAN, DID YA NOW?

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BY THE WAY?

SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE, YABUKI.

WHAT?

WON'T YOU HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH HARIMAU?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,

AND SMILE ONCE FOR THE CAMERA.

JUST SHAKE HIS HAND,

...JUST WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?

IT'D BE GREAT IF I CAN RELY ON YOUR NAME-VALUE TO PROMOTE HARIMAU.

SINCE YOU'RE THE APPLE OF THE MEDIA'S EYE THESE DAYS,

WE'RE COUNTIN' ON YA, CHAMP!

I THINK THAT'D MAKE FOR A GREAT PIC!

GREAT IDEA!

THE WINNER OF THAT FIGHT WILL BE CHALLENGING YOU FOR THE PACIFIC TITLE IN YOUR NEXT TITLE-DEFENSE.

HARIMAU'S SET TO FIGHT YOKOKURA GYM'S TAKIGAWA VERY SOON.

WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

W-

I'M OUTTA HERE. BYE!

I DON'T CARE IF THAT SO-CALLED HARIMAU REALLY IS A TIGER OR A PAPER ONE. HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

ON THE CONTRARY, HE'S GOT QUITE A LOT TO DO WITH YOU.

WHAT?

GRAWRR... GAOO... RAWRRR...

BUT LET ME TELL YOU CLEARLY AGAIN THAT I ONLY DO WHAT I WANT, AND I'LL BE DAMNED BEFORE-

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE STILL SET ON DRAGGING ME AROUND BY THE EAR TO WHEREVER YOU PLEASE,

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH YOU!

GO AWAY.

HE'S ASKING TO SHAKE HANDS.

LOOK, HE'S CALMED DOWN AFTER HAVING SOME CHOCOLATE.

AGHHHH!

AH-

YOU SON OF A...

AGHHHHH-

HE'S TWISTING YABUKI'S ARM!

H-HARIMAU!

S-SOMEONE, STOP HIM!

HO...

DON'T LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR A SECOND!

T-TAKE HIM AWAY AT ONCE!

HARIMAU!

Y-YES, MA'AM!

AHHH!

OHHH!

HE FELLED THE PACIFIC CHAMPION IN JUST ONE PUNCH...

DID YOU SEE THAT?

H-HARIMAU!

WHAT A SCOOP!

WAIT, YOU BASTARD.

HEY...

YOU JUST STAY OUTTA MY WAY!

HE WAS RAISED IN THE JUNGLE SO HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PROPER MANNERS OR-

HAND HIM OVER TO ME!

I- I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, YABUKI.

AGHHHH!

I SAID HAND OVER THAT MONKEY TO ME!

GRRRAWARR!

CALM DOWN, HARIMAU!

HAND OVER THAT MONKEY-FREAK TO ME!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID!?

RAWRRRR!

GRR...

Y-YABUKI, PLEASE...

C... CALM YOURSELF, HARIMAU!

GAWRRRRRR!

G-GET THE CHOCOLATE! QUICKLY!

HARIMAU!

SO PLEASE...

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY,

IT'S ALREADY THE THIRD TIME.

HE'S EATING CHOCOLATE AGAIN.

AH-

HERE.

MUNCH

MUNCH

. . . .

HE'S LITERALLY AN ANIMAL!

DAMN IT!

MOVE IT!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!

WELL, I'M JUST GLAD YOU MANAGED TO RESTRAIN YOURSELF.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT'S WRONG?

HM?

WHAT'S WRONG, YABUKI?

...

IT'S QUITE UNBEFITTING OF YOUR IMAGE.

THE WILD YABUKI JOE WOULD CALM DOWN JUST LIKE THAT

BUT TO THINK,

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MA'AM!?

PRETENDIN' YOU'RE ACTUALLY SORRY ABOUT HIM ATTACKING ME WHILE EGGING ME ON...

ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH JOKING AROUND.

DON'T PUSH YOUR DAMN LUCK AND SAY STUFF YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND, YOU BITCH!

IN A PLACE AS PUBLIC AS AN AIRPORT, SURROUNDED BY EVERYONE!?

HMPH... YOU REALLY THINK I'D DUKE IT OUT WITH SOME PRIMATE LOWER THAN A MONKEY,

THAT'D MEAN A BIG LOSS IN MONEY FOR YOUR SHIRAKI PROMOTIONS.

AND BESIDES, IF I BEAT HIM TO A PULP RIGHT NOW,

I CAN'T JUST GO AROUND GETTING INTO A FIST-FIGHT WITH EVERY HICK FROM GOD-KNOWS-WHATEVER MOUNTAIN OR JUNGLE YOU FOUND HIM IN.

I'M A LEGITIMATE CONTENDER FOR THE WORLD-TITLE RIGHT NOW.

I DECIDED TO CUT BOTH YOU AND HIM SOME SLACK...

AFTER SEEING YOUR CHARMING LITTLE FACE,

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MA'AM?

. . . .

HOW DISAP-POINTING.

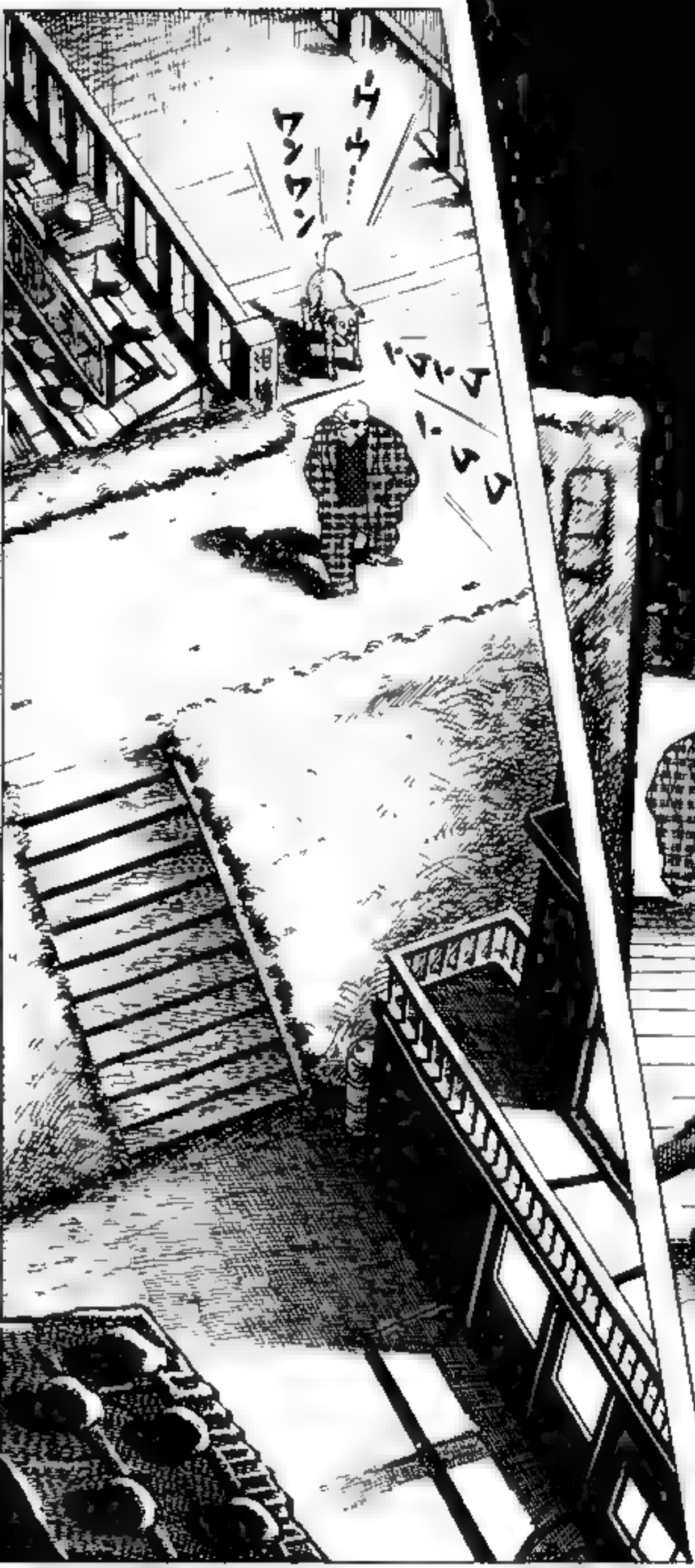
YOU'VE CHANGED, YABUKI...

YES.. I'M FINE.

SEE YA THEN!

I'VE BROUGHT HARIMAU TO JAPAN!

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...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WHERE ARE YOU, JOE...

DAMN IT...

I WENT TO THE AIRPORT AFTER SEEING THAT THE 8:50 FLIGHT WAS THE ONLY PLANE GOING TO MEXICO TONIGHT BUT,

HE WASN'T THERE...

...

DAMN HIM AND HIS-

AHH!

W-WAIT! HE'S...

HE'S INSIDE RIGHT NOW.

HE JUST CAME BACK!

MOVE IT!

DOES THAT IDIOT HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH HE HAD ME WORRYING!?

WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME!?

YOU RETARD!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL DAY LONG!

GET OUT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

W...

AH!

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO ON EARTH COULD'VE-

WHAT HAPPENED? WELL?

YOU WERE PUNCHED BY SOMEONE, WEREN'T YOU?

THAT WOUND ...

SO I CAME BACK. THAT'S ALL.
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO MEXICO RIGHT NOW,
NOW GET OUT.

I SAID GET OUT!
I THINK ONE OF YOUR TEETH IS BR-
H-HOLD ON A SEC.
KO

PREZ!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR STUB-BORNNESS!

WHAT?

AH...

UGH...

DAMMIT, HOW COULD HE THROW HIS OWN MANAGER...

OWWW...

Y-YOU'RE KIND OF CRUSHING ME HERE...

WHAT GOOD'S TAKING YOUR ANGER OUT ON US GONNA DO!?

DAMN IT ALL! DAMN ALL OF YOU TO HELL!

I'M... DYING...

YOU LITTLE...!

AGHHH!

ACK!

Saturday

Daily Sports

Pacific Champion Yabuki Joe Knocked Down in One Hit

An unexpected encounter at the airport!

The uncontrollable Harimau

I'D PULL HIS HAIR LIKE THIS IF I WERE THERE...

ME TOO!

QUIT IT.

I'D CRUSH HIS TWO LITTLE BALLS AND-

AND THEN I'D BUST OUT MY SPECIAL MOVE AND...

HAHA!!

AREN'T YOU FRUSTRATED?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MONKEY KNOCKED YOU DOWN...

I WOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT IF I WERE THERE, THAT'S FOR SURE... HMPH.

DON'T SAY VULGAR THINGS IN FRONT OF A LADY!

GO HOME ALREADY.

TAKE THIS!

AND WHAM WHAM WHAM!

I'D PLUCK OUT HIS EYEBALLS, GRAB HIM BY HIS NOSE,

WAHHH!

SO GO HOME FOR TODAY!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK WITH JOE AS WELL.

NON-GYM MEMBERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE POSTER ON THE DOOR?

WE'VE GOT IMPORTANT STUFF TO TALK ABOUT WITH BROTHER JOE!

HMPH...

.....

TO THINK THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE REASONS WERE, THIS WAS A PATHETIC SCENE.

...

THIS IS PATHETIC.

IT'S JUST AS THOSE KIDS SAID.

AS IF YOU'RE THE ONE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S PATHETIC OR NOT!

SHUT UP...

"THE PACIFIC CHAMPION DONE IN BY A SINGLE PUNCH FROM SOME OBSCURE UNRANKED BOXER."

JUST LOOK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY PLASTERED THIS SCENE ALL OVER THE FRONT PAGE...

DAMN THOSE REPORTERS.

YOU'VE CHANGED, JOE...

...

DAMN IT!

I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ALL THEIR FILMS BACK THEN...

NOT JUST IN HOW YOU ACT BUT HOW YOU THINK AS WELL!

YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU USED TO BE,

ARE YOU MORE BOTHERED ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD THINKS OF YOU THAN YOUR OWN PRIDE ITSELF...?

WHY'RE YOU BLAMING THE PAPERS WHEN YOU SHOULD BE TURNING THAT ANGER AGAINST HARIMAU?

OR ELSE I'LL SHUT IT FOR YOU!

SHUT THE HELL UP!

SHIRAKI BOXING CLUB

HARIMAU'S PUBLIC TRAINING SESSION

STARTING AT 10:30 AM.

SHIRAKI BOXING CL

OH HEY. HERE TO DO AN ARTICLE ABOUT HARIMAU TOO?

YO, ICHI!

WOW, A LOT OF REPORTERS HERE THIS MORNING.

JUST COME DOWN THIS WAY.

練習
会場

THE PUBLIC TRAINING SESSION'S BEING HELD IN SPARRING RING #2 DOWNSTAIRS.

THAT SINGLE INCIDENT TURNED A WILD BOXER DEEP FROM THE JUNGLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION IN JAPAN.

HARDLY SURPRISING AFTER WHAT HE DID TO YABUKI JOE AT THE AIRPORT THE OTHER DAY!

NEVER IMAGINED THIS MANY REPORTERS WOULD COME TO SEE SOME UNRANKED BOXER TRAIN!

SO YEAH, I THOUGHT I BETTER DO AN ARTICLE ON THIS GUY.

THE PUBLIC TRAINING SESSION FOR HARIMAU IS SET TO BEGIN SHORTLY.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING, GENTLEMEN.

SBC

HE'S NOT YET USED TO MEDIA-EXPOSURE, SO BRIGHT FLASHES CAN AGITATE AND MAKE HIM VERY DANGEROUS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO REFRAIN FROM USING FLASHES OR POINTING BRIGHT LIGHT AT HARIMAU.

BUT BEFORE THAT,

SPARRING WITH HARIMAU TODAY IS TANABE ISAMU, THE 5TH RANKED FEATHERWEIGHT BOXER IN THE JAPANESE LEAGUE.

HEE HEE.

WHAT'RE WE DOING, TAKING PHOTOS OF A LION IN THE SAVANNA?

CAN AGITATE AND MAKE HIM DANGEROUS?

HMM... TANABE'S LOOKING PRETTY TENSE OUT THERE.

I HEARD THEY CALLED HIM UP SUDDENLY TO BE THE SPARRING PARTNER, BUT WHAT HE'S PROBABLY ACTUALLY NERVOUS ABOUT IS THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WITH HARIMAU KNOCKING DOWN THE PACIFIC CHAMP.

JUST FOLLOW US.

THIS WAY HARIMAU.

OH GOD!

AGHHH!

GRR...

EXCUSE US, PLEASE CLEAR THE WAY.

JUST WALK THIS WAY, HARIMAU.

AH, HE'S COMING...

H-HARIMAU, NO!

AGHHH!

KUUU!

スト00ン

AH-

AS AGILE AS A TIGER. GUESS HIS NICKNAME'S NOT JUST FOR SHOW.

WHOA, LOOK AT HIM JUMP.

HARIMAU, COME OVER HERE!

HO HO!

HO!

STAY STILL.

YOU'VE GOTTA PUT YOUR HEADGEAR ON.

RAWRRR!

GRRR...

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR HEADGEAR WHEN YOU SPAR...

WHAT A PAIN...

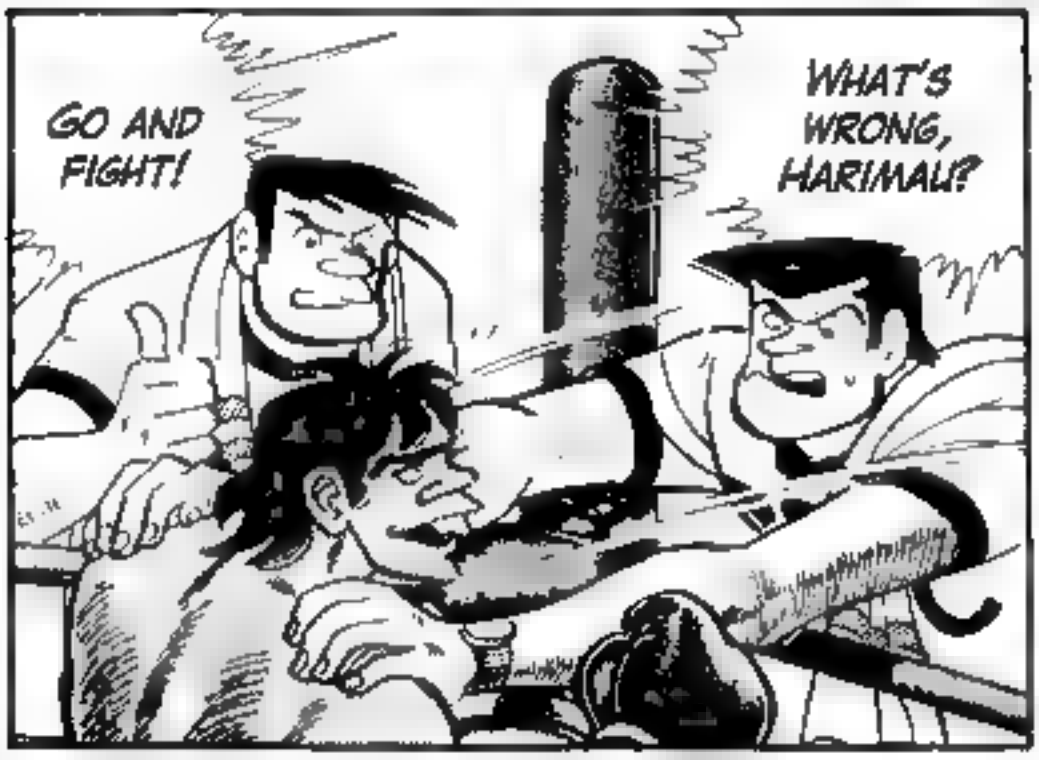
IT'S FINE. IF THE MAN HIMSELF IS SO AGAINST IT, THEN JUST LET HIM BE.

MS. SHIRAKI...

WELL THEN, LET'S BEGIN. IT'S TIME.

BESIDES, A HEADGEAR LIKE THAT CLASHES AGAINST HIS WILD NATURE.

ROUND 1 BEGIN!


GO AND FIGHT!
WHAT'S WRONG, HARIMAU?

GRR...

HEH... WELL, IF THE CLUB OWNER SAID IT'S FINE,
THEN IT AIN'T MY FAULT EVEN IF I TURN HIS FACE INTO A BLOODY MESS.

LOOK, HE'S GOT BOTH HIS HANDS DOWN IN A NO-GUARD STANCE. JUST LIKE THE WAY YABUKI JOE USED TO FIGHT...

だらり

...

YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT WAS YABUKI'S STYLE BACK AROUND THE TIME HE KILLED RIKIISHI...

GRRR...

MNN...

S-STOP GROWLING, YOU WEIRDO.

GRRR...

GRRR...

W-WHOA-

GRA-
WRRR!

GET CLOSER!

YOU CAN'T HIT HIM FROM ALL THE WAY BACK THERE, TANABE!

I KNOW, I'M LOOKING FOR AN OPENING...

HUFF

HUFF

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
KA-KA-KA-

GRRR!
DOES HE EVEN WANT TO FIGHT?
HE'S NOT USING HIS FEET AND HE'S GOT NO GUARD UP.
HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO BLOCK.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
GRRRR...
AH-

I SAID STOP GROWLING!

GRR...

HEH

GRAWRRR...

OR AT LEAST WEAVE AROUND HIS PUNCHES!

HARIMAU! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? HIT HIM BACK!

STOP!

H-HOLD ON A MOMENT, TANABE!

GRR...

OR THIS ISN'T A SPAR.

WHAT'S WRONG, HARIMA!? YOU'VE GOTTA FIGHT BACK,

ドガッ

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT!

THIS IS A FIGHT! UNDER-STAND?!

HMPH, WHAT A RETARD.

BUT HE IS COMPLETELY UNFAZED EVEN AFTER TAKING ALL THOSEPUNCHES...

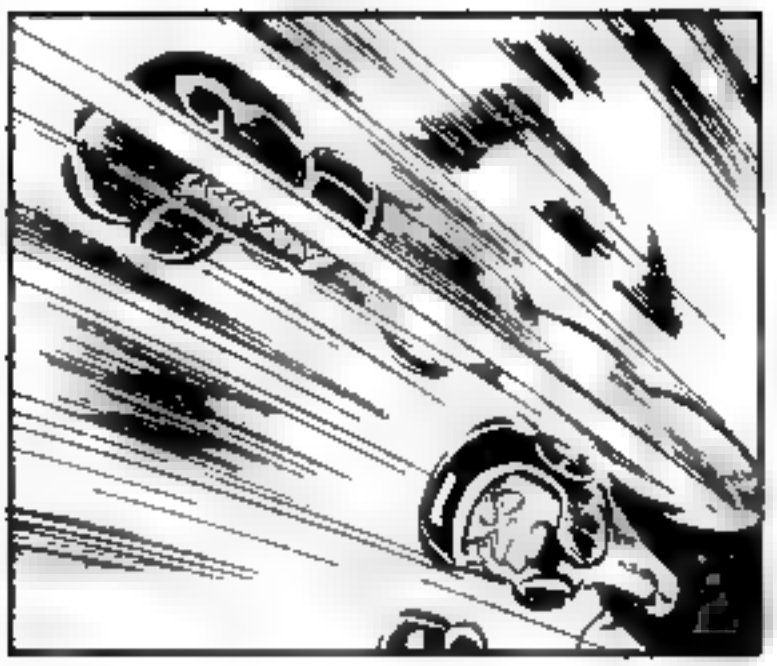
I CAN'T MAKE AN ARTICLE OUT OF THIS.

LOOKS LIKE SHIRAKI GYM'S BROUGHT A REAL STINKER TO JAPAN.

WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD BE THANKFUL I HAVE A HUMAN SANDBAG TO PRACTICE ON.

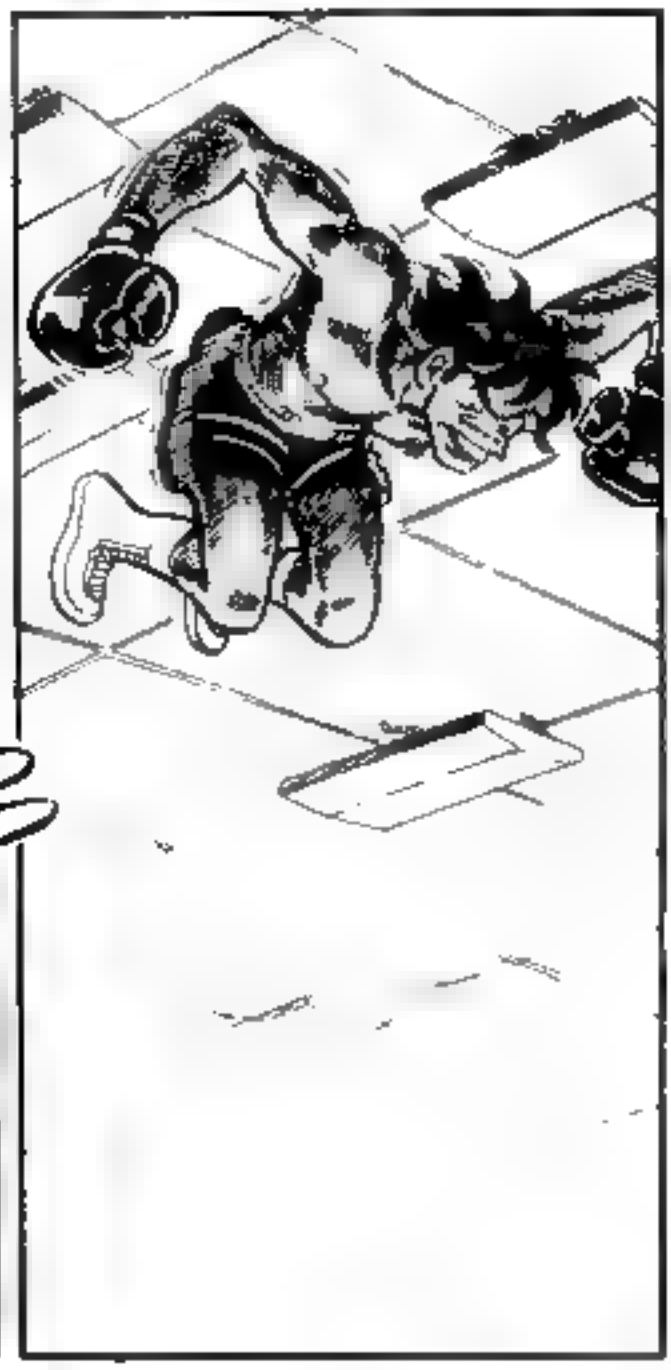
SO FIGHT PROPERLY!
ALRIGHT, LET'S CONTINUE!

HEH HEH.
AND HE... LAUGHED!
AHH! HE DODGED TANABE'S PUNCH!
HUH?

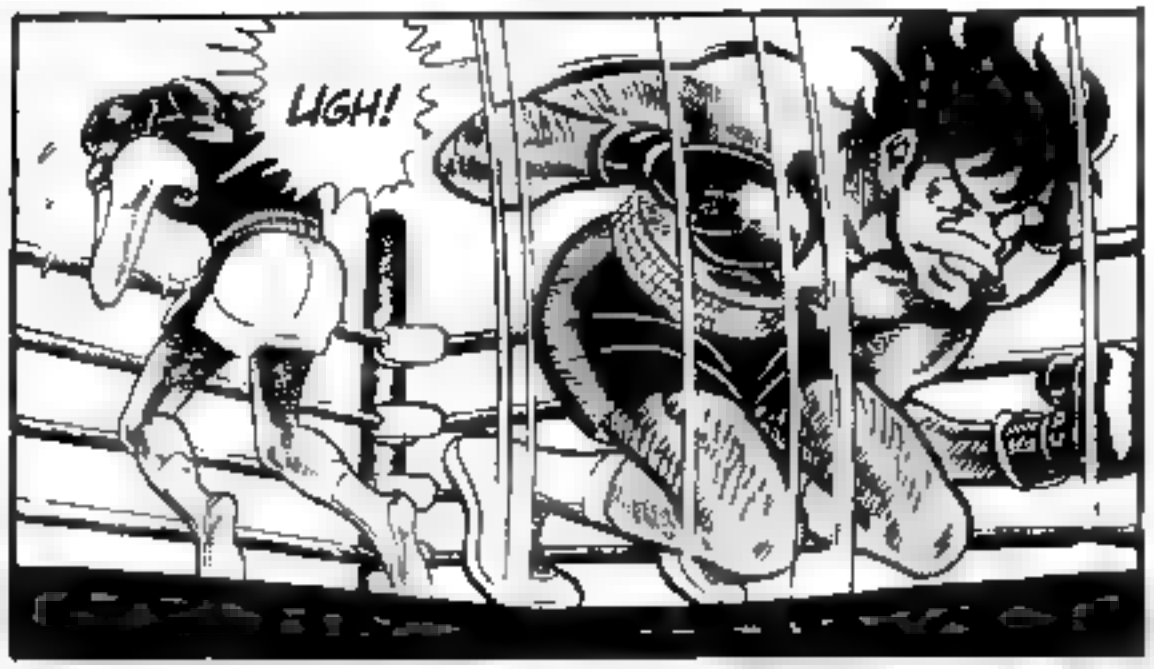


DAMMIT!

HUH?



AND PUNCHED HIM FROM ABOVE!
W-W-WHA!? HE LEAPT,


UGH!

SON OF A...

HO!

HO HO!

IT'S INSANE.

WHAT KIND OF ATTACK IS THAT...?

BUT... I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY RULES THAT FORBID ATTACKS WHILE JUMPING.

YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY AROUND WITH ME!?

WHA?

GRRR!

AHHH!

AGH-

AHHH!

...

SOMEONE GET A DOCTOR!

WAKE UP, TANABE!

T-TANABE!

GRRRR!

HO HO HO!

THAT WAS QUICK...

HMM... LOOKS LIKE A SEVERE CONCUSSION. WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM IN FOR A PROPER NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?

T-TANABE... HANG IN THERE.

IT'S A FACT THAT HE TOOK CARE OF THE 5TH RANKED JAPANESE FEATHERWEIGHT IN LESS THAN 2 MINUTES.

BUT STILL...

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

THAT WAS HARDLY EVEN BOXING...

WE DIDN'T GET A SPARRING PARTNER OTHER THAN TANABE.
B-BUT... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

AND SINCE TANABE WAS THE ONE WHO CHARGED AT HARIMAU, WHO ONLY DUCKED AND THEN RAISED HIS HEAD BACK UP, WHAT HE DID IS PERFECTLY WITHIN REGULATIONS AS WELL.
TRUE.

OVER HERE!

W-WHEN DID HE GET HERE!?
AHHH! Y-YABUKI!?

SITTING RIGHT HERE FOR A WHILE NOW!
THERE'S BEEN A GOOD SPARRING PARTNER,

GRRRR...
EASY THERE.

HOLD HIM DOWN!
RAWRRR!
H-HARIMAU!

RAWRRR!
GAAHH!

SO HOW ABOUT I TAKE TANABE'S PLACE?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S IN THE MOOD TO FIGHT TOO, AFTER SEEING THAT I'M HERE...
IT'D BE RUDE NOT TO SHOW ALL THESE REPORTERS A SPAR WORTH WATCHING SINCE THEY ALL CAME TO WATCH. RIGHT!?

YOU LOOK MORE AND MORE PATHETIC THE CLOSER I LOOK AT YOU.
HA...

RAWRRRRR!

GRRRR!

SBC

S-SOMEONE, HELP ME HOLD HIM DOWN!

LOOKS LIKE YABUKI WANTS TO GET BACK FOR THE INCIDENT AT THE AIPORT THE OTHER DAY

WHOA, THINGS ARE STARTIN' TO GET REAL INTERESTING NOW

A SPAR BETWEEN TWO MEN WITH THEIR PRIDE ON THE LINE... NOW THAT'S A STORY!

YEAH, TAKE HIM UP ON HIS OFFER! PLEASE!

YOU ONCE SPARRED WITH CARLOS RIVERA HERE AT MY GYM AS HIS PARTNER, RIGHT?

YABUKI...

WHAT ABOUT IT?

YOUR RECKLESS OFFER POSES A FEW PROBLEMS.

HOLD ON A MOMENT.

I SHOULD BE PRUDENT?

SO JUST BECAUSE I'M THE CHAMP,

SHOULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE PRUDENT CONSIDERING YOUR POSITION NOW?

BUT NOW... YOU'RE THE PACIFIC CHAMPION.

THAT PRUDENCE LAST NIGHT... IS WHAT LED TO THE PAPERS PLASTERING THIS CRAP ALL OVER THE FRONT PAGES!

HA, DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

I'LL BE DAMNED BEFORE I LET SOME MONKEY MAKE A FOOL OUTTA ME!

I AIN'T NO CLOWN FOR PEOPLE TO POINT FINGERS AND LAUGH AT!

.....

WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE MISS PROMOTER?

CAN'T YOU SEE ALL THE REPORTERS ARE EAGERLY WAITING!?
C'MON THEN! GIVE ME SOME GLOVES TO WEAR!
W-WHAT SHOULD I DO, MA'AM...?

HARIMAU'S STOCK IS GONNA PLUMMET AT THIS RATE!
BUT IT WOULD'VE BEEN ALL FOR NOTHING IF YOU TURN DOWN MY CHALLENGE NOW.
YOUR PLAN LAST NIGHT TO MARKET YOUR LITTLE MONKEY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS,

NO CHOCO-LATE!

GIVE HIM THE CHOCOLATE!
WE'VE GOTTA CALM HIM DOWN!
GRRRR!

GREAT!

GIVE HIM THE GLOVES.

FINE, I'D BE HONOURED TO HAVE THE PACIFIC CHAMPION WORK AS OUR SPARRING PARTNER TODAY.

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO SELL A FIGHT, YABUKI.

SBC

OHHH!

SINCE HARIMAU'S MATCH IS SOON.

YOU'LL ONLY BE SPARRING FOR ONE 3-MINUTE ROUND,

I'D LOVE TO FIGHT BARE-FISTED IF I COULD.

THESE ARE SOME PRETTY BIG GLOVES, AREN'T THEY...

HERE I COME!

I DON'T EVEN NEED 3 MINUTES TO COOK A MONKEY OR TWO!

HAHA, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOU BETTER CLOSELY WATCH ME PUMMEL THIS MONKEY AND FIX UP THE WHOLE MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE PAPERS TOMORROW!

HEY, REPORTERS!

GRAWRRR!

GRRR...

AH-

NOO!

GRAWWWR!

LIGH-

A... A SURPRISE ATTACK...

AHHH-

KRAK!

UGAHHH!

GRRRR!

AHHH!

OH NO!

GYE-HHHH!

THIS AIN'T NO PRO-WRESTLING. CAN'T YOU EVEN WAIT FOR THE BELL TO RING!?

DAMMIT...

THAT SURPRISE ATTACK ONLY WORKED BECAUSE HE WAS TOO FOCUSED ON WHAT THE MEDIA OR THE WORLD THINKS OF HIM.

YABUKI...

YOUR WILDNESS HAS YET TO FULLY RETURN...

THAT TIGER FROM MALAYSIA WILL UNDO WHAT THIS SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA'S TURNED YOU INTO...!

BUT... IT WON'T BE FOR LONG.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!

THAT'S IT!

ORUHH
AH!
WHA?

THAT SON OF A-

WHAT THE...

HO!

UGH ...!

GARR!

GRA- WRRR...

OOF

HO!

Y...

LIGH-

YOU CALL THAT...

BOXING!?

IS!

THIS!

WHAT BOXING IS!

TALK ABOUT POWERFUL...

THAT'S THE PACIFIC CHAMP, ALRIGHT.

AHH! YABUKI'S MAD NOW!

I'M GONNA BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUTTA YOU!

I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT IF YOUR MATCH IS COMING UP OR NOT!

LOOK, HARIMAU'S CAUGHT ON THE ROPES...

AGHHH...

I-IT'S OVER...!

KO

IT AIN'T OVER UNTIL HE'S DOWN ON THE MAT!

YOU THINK I GIVE A SHIT!?

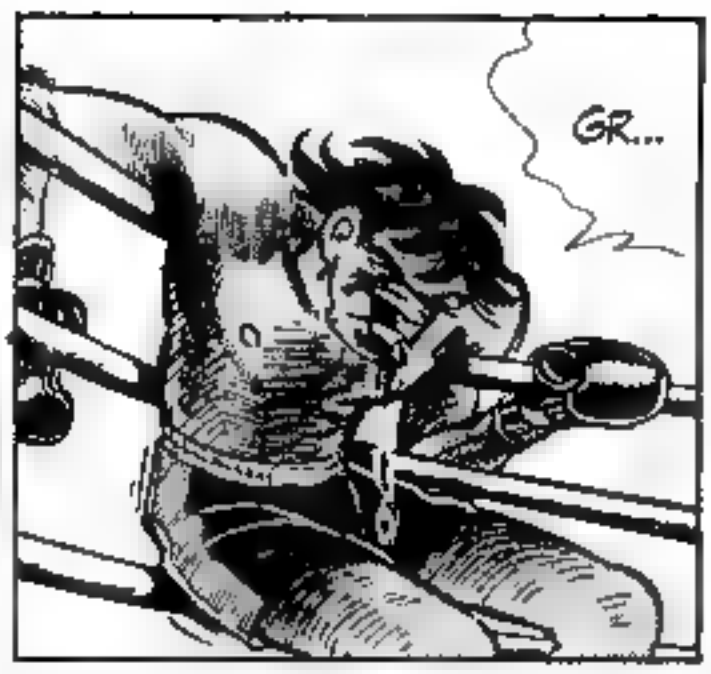
CONTROL YOURSELF!

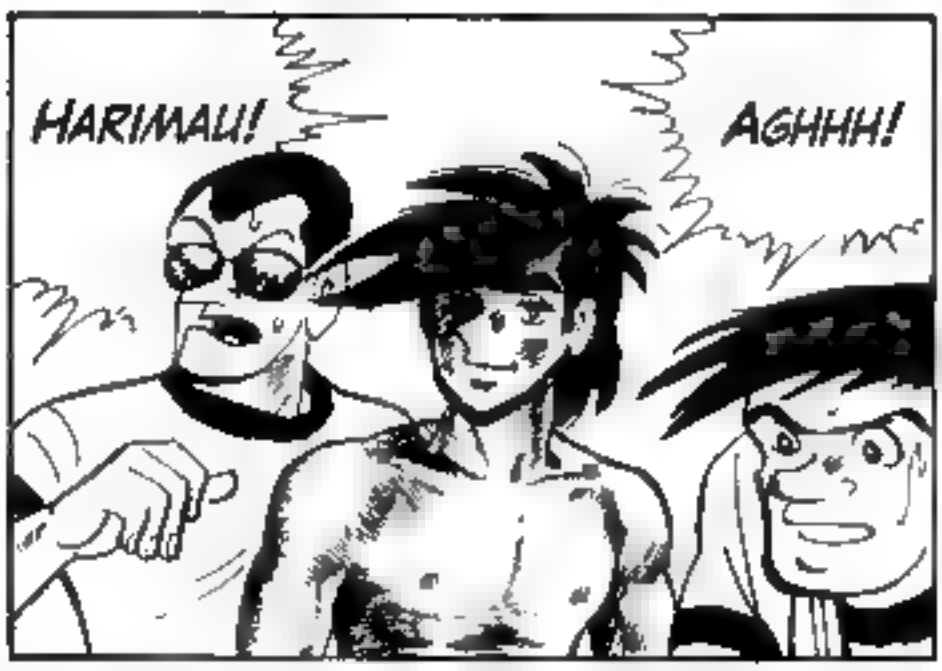
P-PLEASE, STOP!

HE'S LOST CONSCIOUS ALREADY! IT'S A ROPE-DOWN!

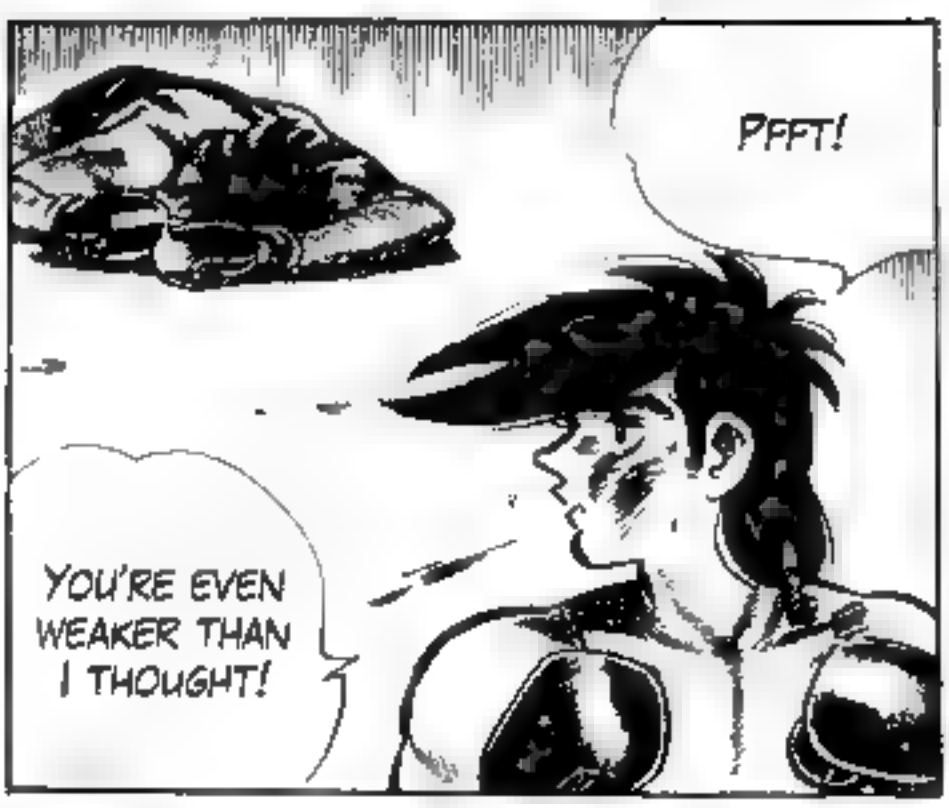
Y-YABUKI, STOP!

LET GO OF ME!


GR...

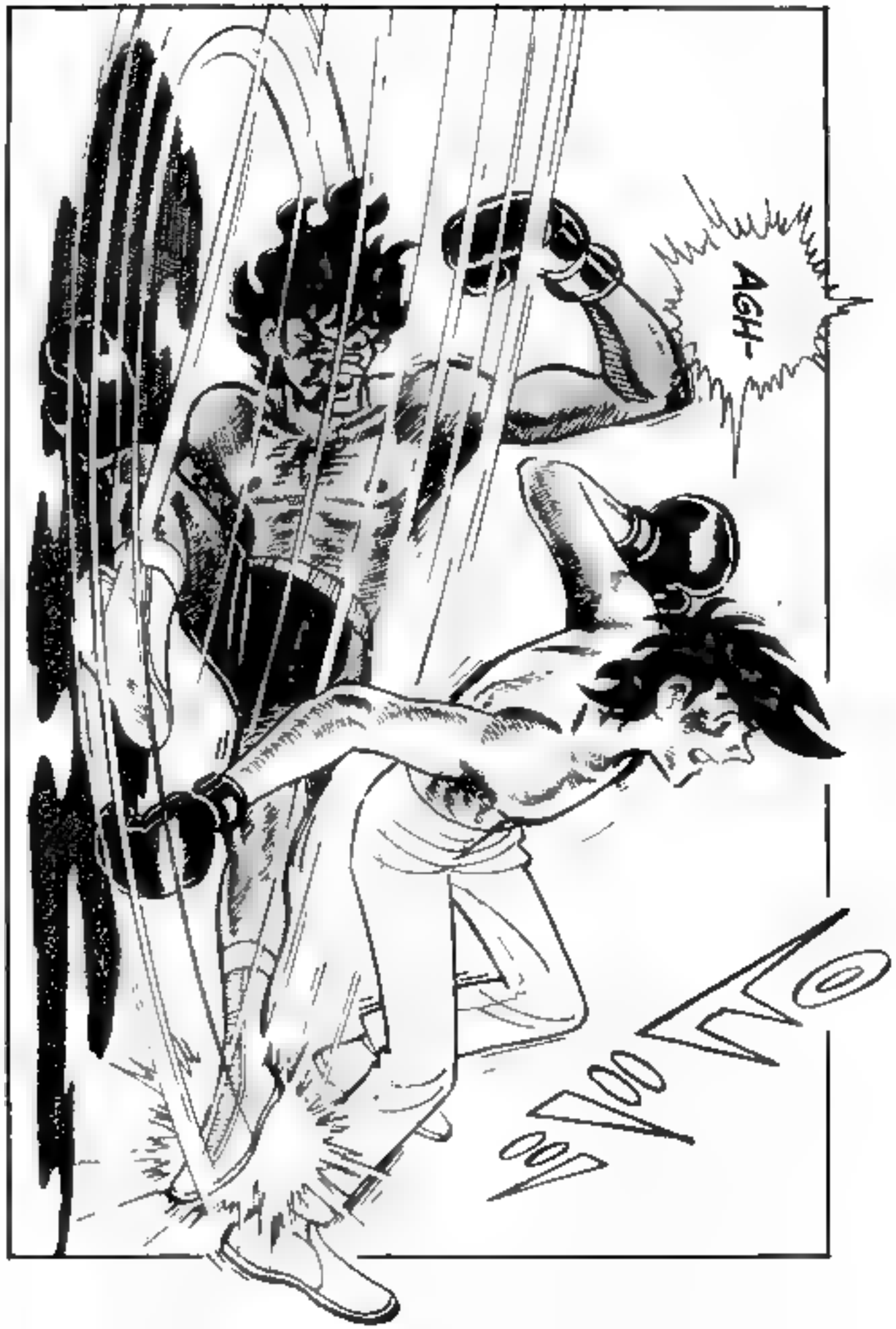

HARIMAU!
AGHHH!

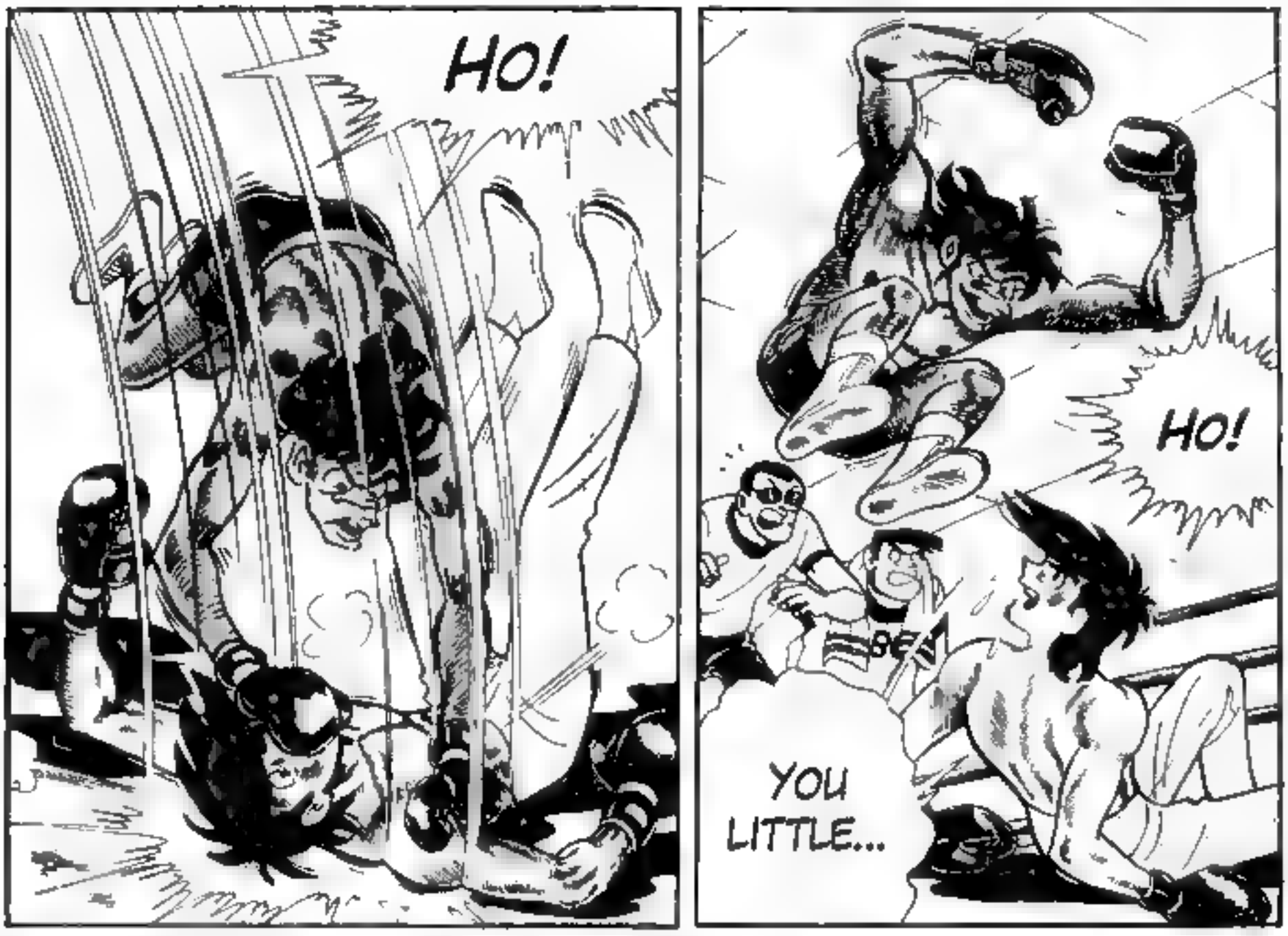
BOO
GBC


PFFT!
YOU'RE EVEN WEAKER THAN I THOUGHT!

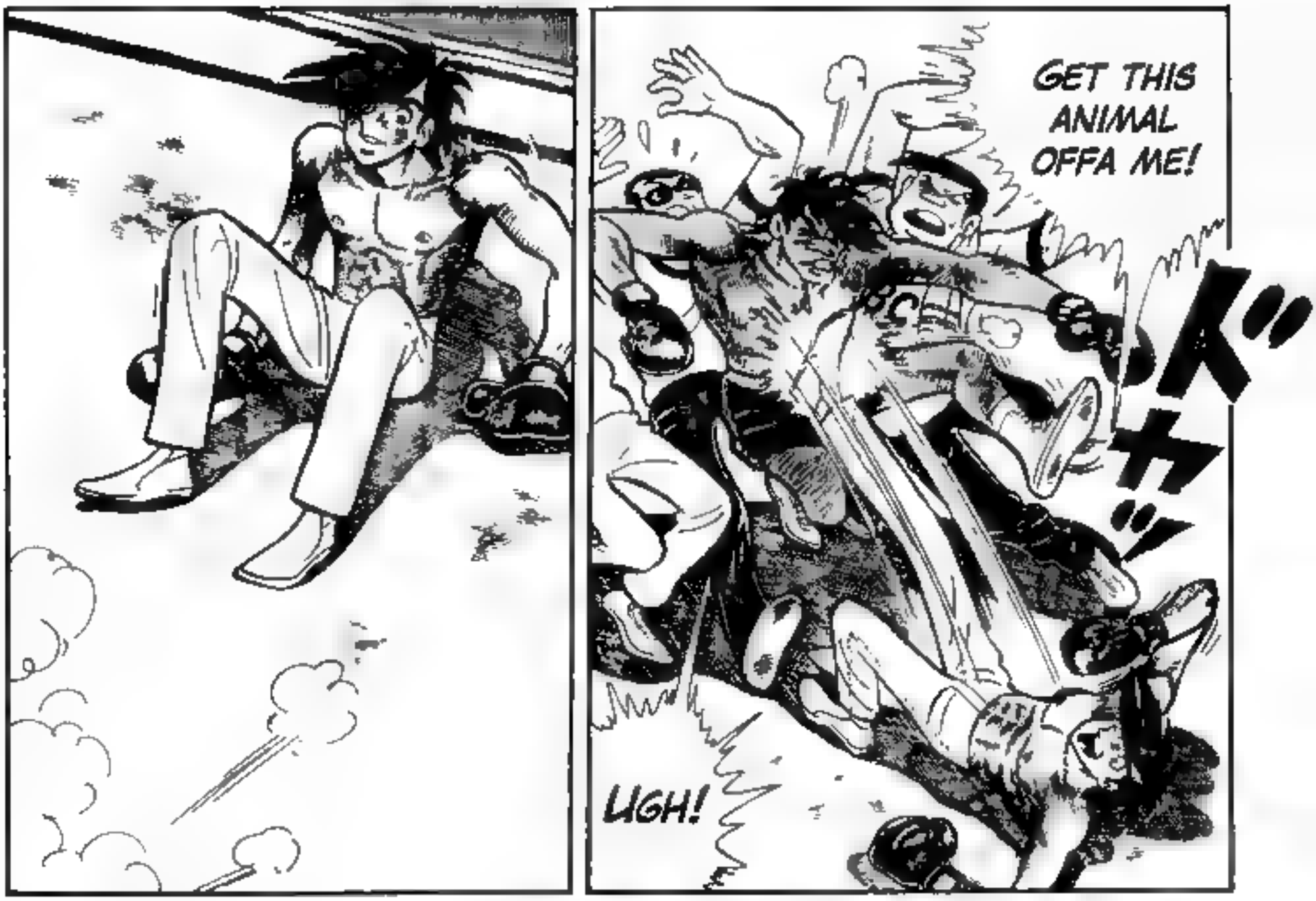
SBC

HOI
HOI


AGH-
ONO


HO!
HO!
YOU LITTLE...

H-HARIMAU!
FUGY-AAAA!
GYAAA!
NO, STOP!


GET THIS ANIMAL OFFA ME!
K"
UGH!
S-STOP IT, HARIMAU! DID YOU FORGET THE RULES OF BOXING!?
WE'RE CALLING THIS SPAR OFF! TAKE HIM AWAY!

I SAID LET GO OF THAT MONKEY!

HOO HRR

LET GO OF HIM.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M FORGIVING HIM AFTER THAT...

HOO

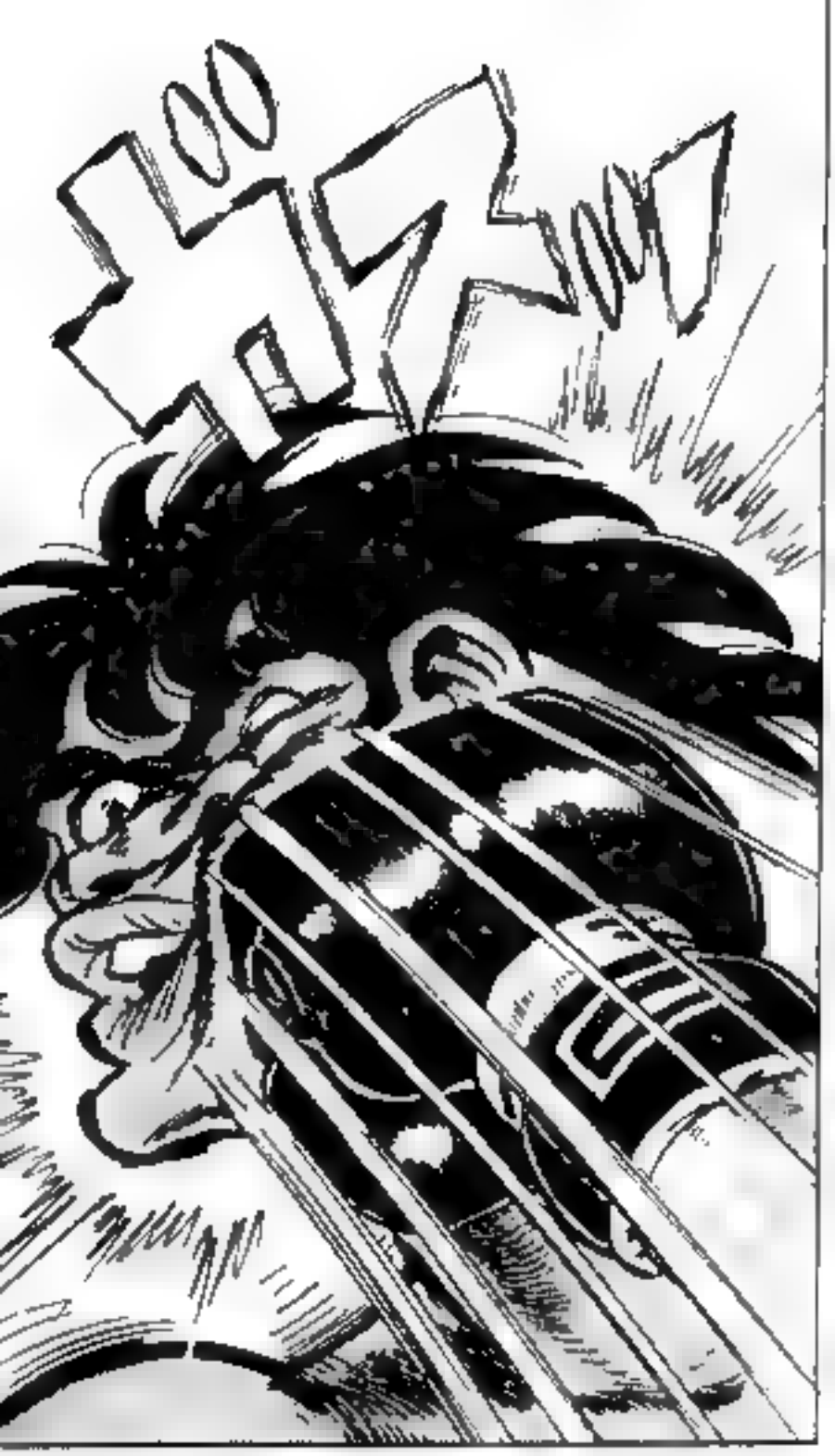
HOO

AH-

AGHH!

UGAHHHH!

YOU FREAK!



A-AHH...
AHHHH!
GIEEE!
GWARRR!

WHEN YABUKI CAUGHT HIM ON THE ROPES EARLIER, BUT...!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DONE FOR,

W-WHAT A FIGHT...

I THINK HE ONLY PRETENDED TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS AND FALL DOWN BECAUSE HE KNEW IT'D BE THE FASTEST AND SUREST WAY TO STOP YABUKI AFTER BEING CAUGHT ON THE ROPES...

I DON'T THINK THAT WAS A REAL DOWN...

HE'S A REAL ANIMAL.

I-IN OTHER WORDS... UNLIKE NORMAL BOXERS, A DOWN IS UTTERLY MEANINGLESS FOR HIM... WHATEVER THE MEANS, THE ONLY THING HE CARES ABOUT IS IF HE WINS IN THE END OR NOT.

OTHERWISE, YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW HE QUICKLY GOT BACK UP AND SWEPT YABUKI OFF HIS FEETS!

KIZZZ

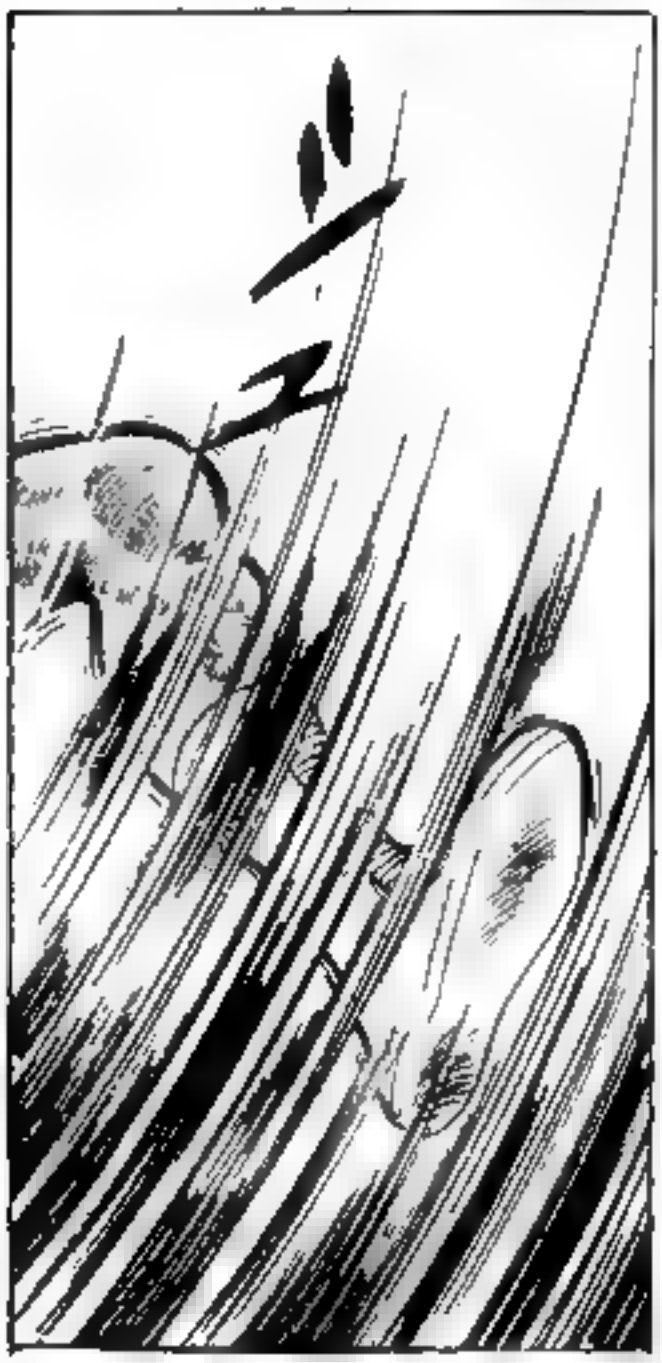
ZZZZ

RIGHT!

T... TIME-KEEPER!

RING THE BELL!

STOP!
THAT'S THE BELL!



HARIMAU! THE SPAR'S OVER!
LET GO OF ME!
WE TOLD YOU THE SPAR WAS ONLY GONNA BE ONE ROUND LONG, YABUKI!
COME AT ME!

AGHH!

AHHH!

BC

AH-

THIS IS GONNA END BADLY...

OH CRAP...

...

GIVE HIM SOME CHOCOLATE AND TAKE HIM OUTSIDE!

HURRY UP AND TAKE HARIMAU OFF THE RINGS!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

S... SORRY ABOUT HIM, YABUKI...

HERE! IT'S CHOCOLATE!

HURRY UP AND TAKE HIM AWAY!

GRRR...

I'M TIRED OF HEARING THE SAME EXCUSES.

HE'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM HIS HOME IN THE REMOTE JUNGLE, SO HE-

B-BUT PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

I AIN'T GONNA DO NOTHING NOW THAT THE BELL'S RUNG.

LOOK, IT'S FINE SO JUST LET GO OF ME.

TO THINK HE'D ACTUALLY KICK YOU IN THE F-FA...

I... I DON'T KNOW... HOW TO APOLOGIZE F-FOR HIS BEHAVIOR...

LET GO.

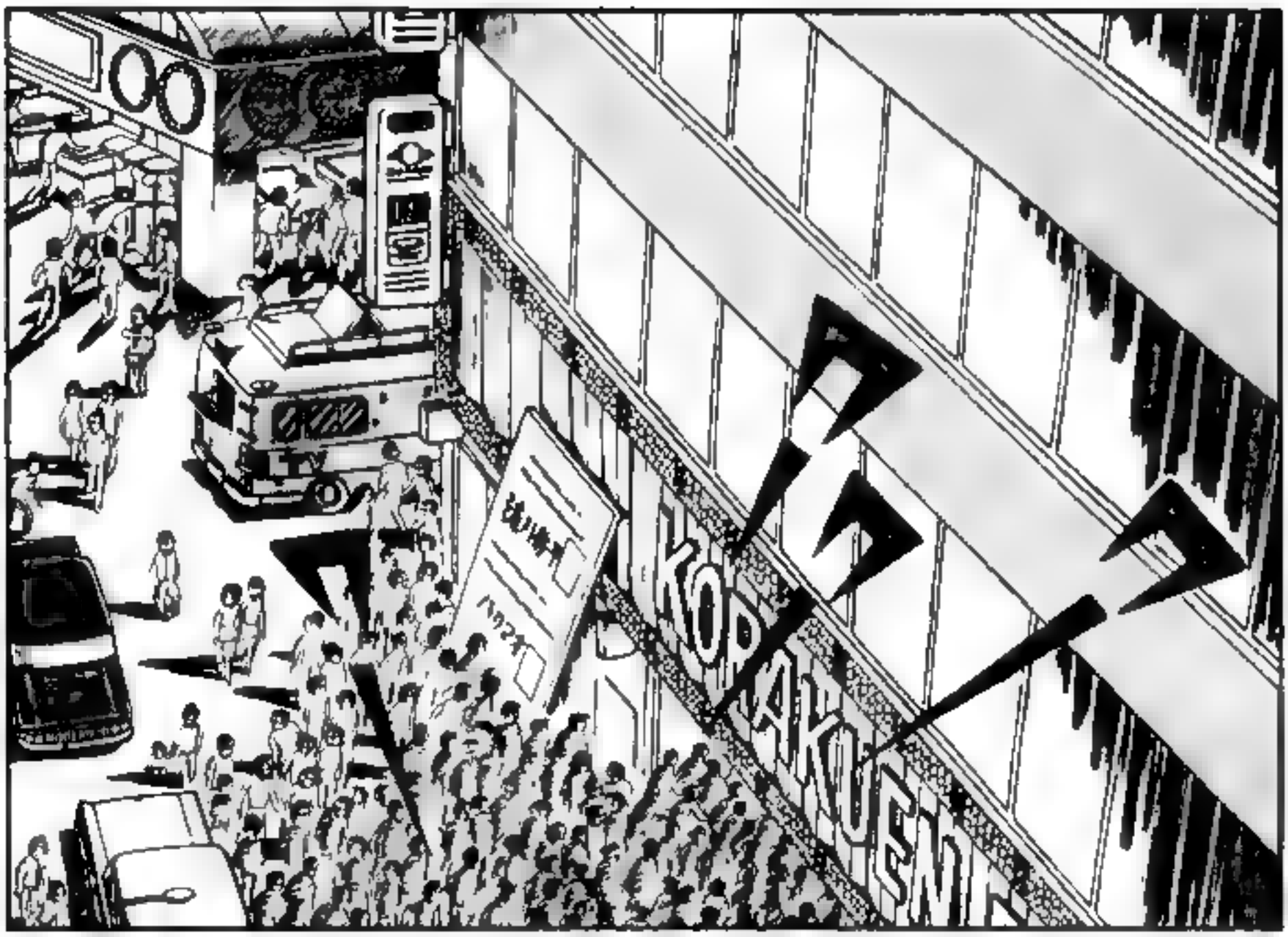
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE AND SETTLE THINGS WITH THAT MONKEY.

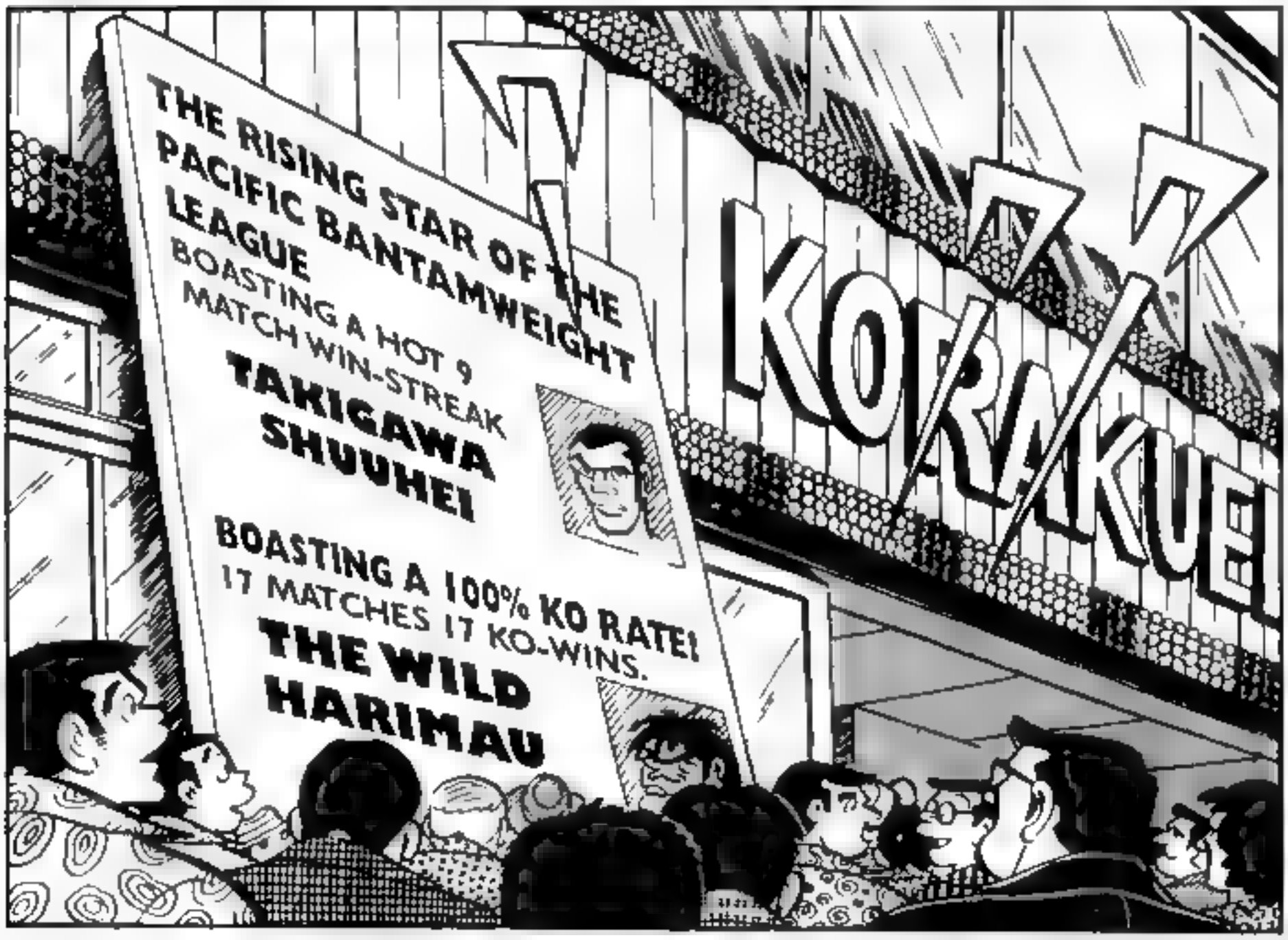
HA.. LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO YOUR SCRIPT...

I DON'T CARE WHETHER HE BEATS TAKIGAWA SHUUHEI OR NOT. SCHEDULE AN OFFICIAL FIGHT BETWEEN US,

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MOVE IT!


KORAKUEN


THE RISING STAR OF THE PACIFIC BANTAMWEIGHT LEAGUE
BOASTING A HOT 9 MATCH WIN-STREAK
TAKIGAWA SHUUHEI
BOASTING A 100% KO RATE!
17 MATCHES 17 KO-WINS.
THE WILD HARIMAU
KORAKUEN

KOURAKUEN STADIUM'S ALREADY FULL.

EVERYWHERE YOU SEE, THE FANS ARE JAM-PACKED, JUST WAITING FOR THE BELL TO RING!

YES, I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH A LARGE SELLOUT-CROWD IN SOME TIME NOW.

QUITE THE ATMOSPHERE TONIGHT.

EVER SINCE COMING TO JAPAN, HARIMAU'S BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL SCUFFLES WITH YABUKI JOE, QUICKLY MAKING HIM THE HOT TOPIC OF EVERY JAPANESE BOXING FAN!

THE REASON FOR THE SELLOUT CROWD TONIGHT PROBABLY HAS A LOT MORE TO DO WITH HARIMAU'S POPULARITY RATHER THAN THAT OF TAKIGAWA.

GRR...

N-NO, HARIMAU!

THE BELL HASN'T RUNG YET!

GRAWRRRR!

ビヒュ

. . . .

HAD I KNOWN HE'D BE SUCH AN UNPREDICTABLE BEAST, I'D HAVE REJECTED THE OFFER NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE MONEY WAS...
I... CAN'T BELIEVE MS. SHIRAKI BROUGHT OUT SUCH AN ANIMAL..

west

WHAT'RE YOU STALLING FOR!?
WE'RE TIRED OF WAITING! START THE MATCH ALREADY!
RING THE DAMN BELL!

GRRR...

GRAWRRRR!

I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING THROWN INTO THE CAGE AT SOME ZOO...

I UNDERSTAND ALL THAT BUT... SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO FIGHT A BOXING MATCH.

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF WEIRD ATTACKS HE THROWS AT YOU, STICK TO YOUR TRIED AND TESTED TECHNIQUES.

J-JUST REMEMBER TO FIGHT AT YOUR OWN PACE, SHUUHEI!

R-RIGHT, COACH ...

WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF MATCH THIS'LL TURN OUT TO BE!?

IT'S THE 5TH BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHTER IN THE PACIFIC VERSUS THE WILD MALAYSIAN TIGER, HARIMAU!

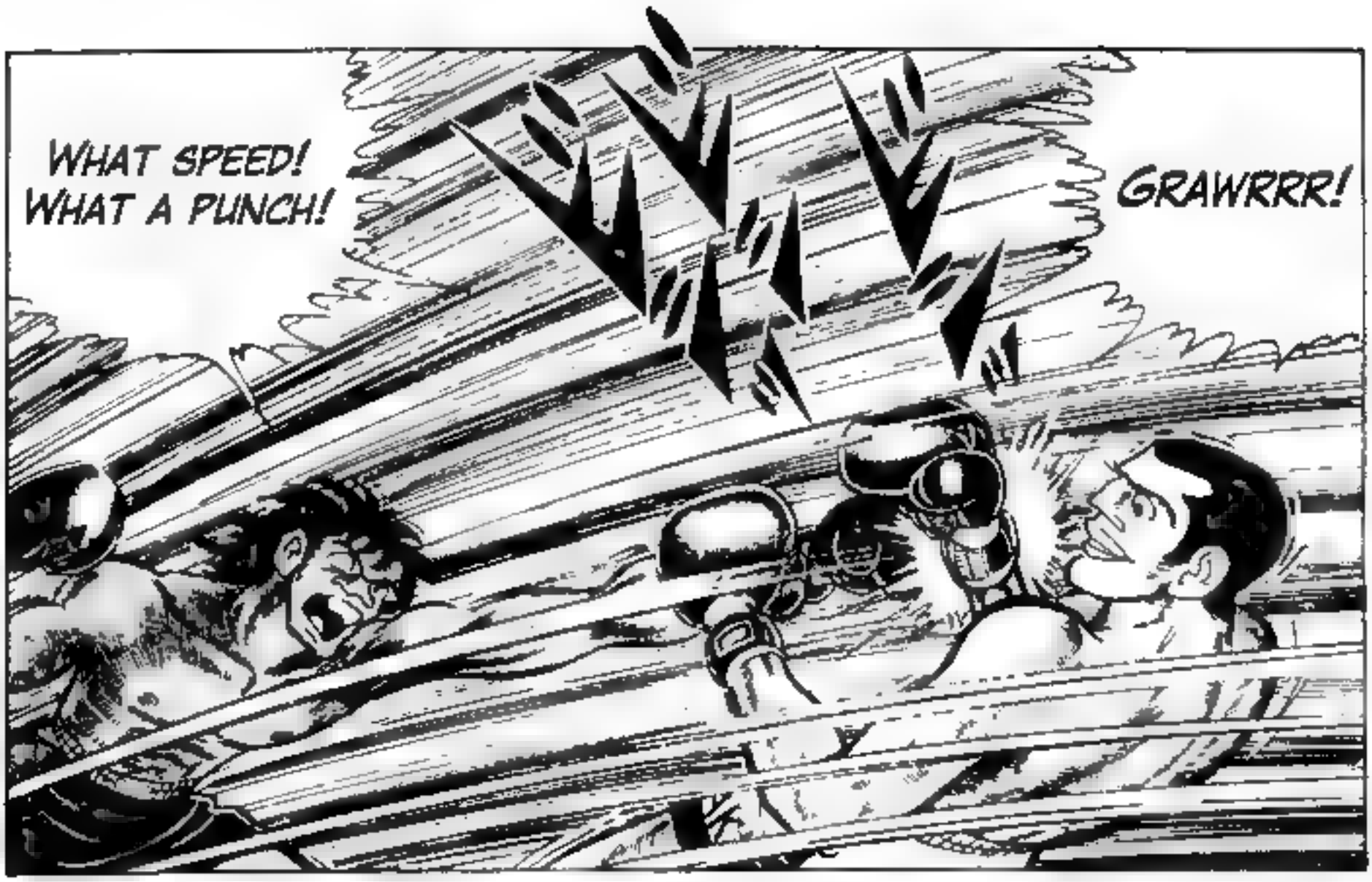
THE BELL RINGS! ROUND 1 HAS NOW BEGUN!

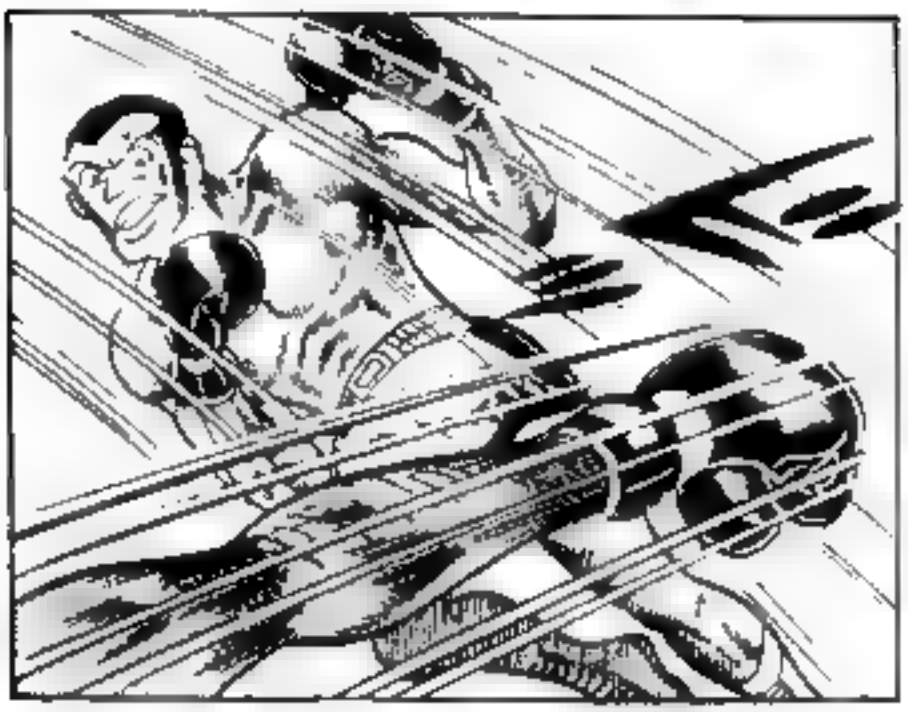
TURN AROUND, SHUUHEI!

AGHHH! HE'S COMING!

GRRR!

AHH! HARIMAU RUSHES TOWARDS SHUUHEI'S CORNER AS SOON AS THE BELL RINGS!


WHAT SPEED!
WHAT A PUNCH!
GRAWRRR!



GWAHH!
GWAHH!

GRRR!

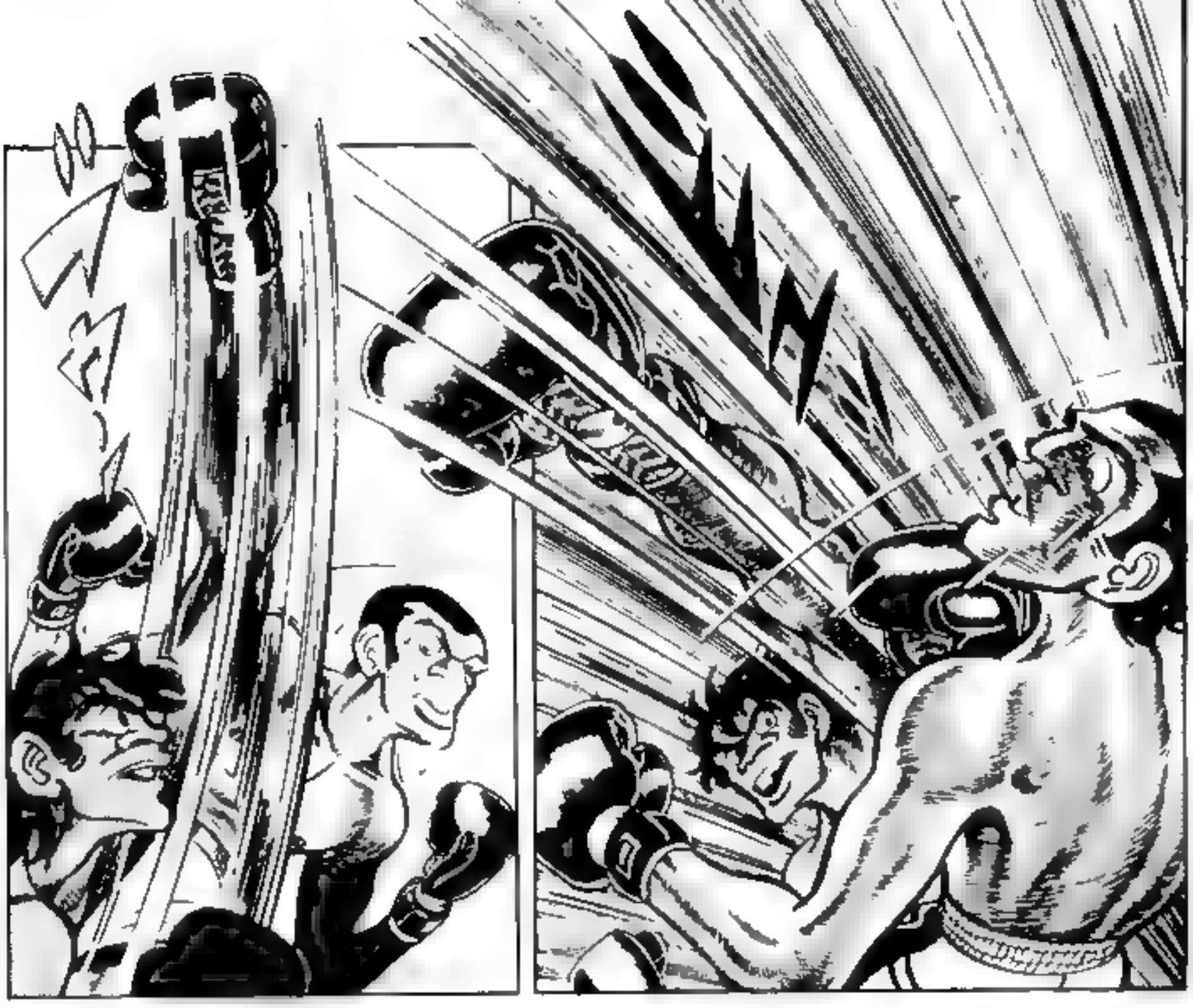
BUT HARIMAU'S NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE CHASE JUST YET!

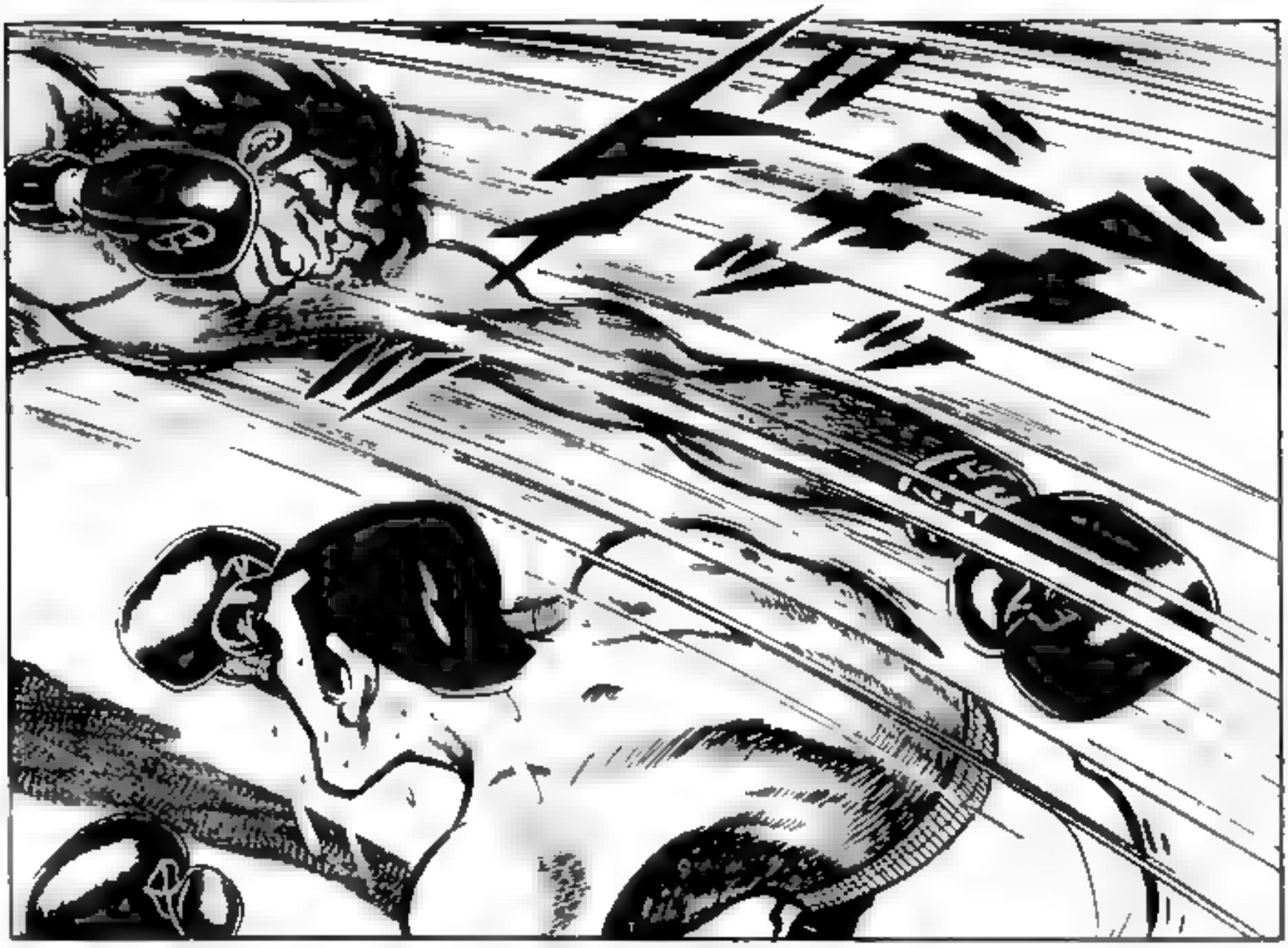
TAKIGAWA SIDESTEPS AND ESCAPES FROM THE ROPES!

HIS SWIFT ATTACKS CONTINUE!

HE HASN'T GOT EVEN A SINGLE MOMENT TO STRIKE BACK!

TAKIGAWA IS ON THE DEFENSIVE!





EVEN IF TAKIGAWA'S UP AGAINST A MAN WHO SUPPOSEDLY HELD HIS OWN AGAINST THE PACIFIC CHAMPION... TAKIGAWA'S FIGHTING FAR TOO PASSIVELY RIGHT NOW.

HARIMAU'S FIRMLY SUCKING HIS OPPONENT INTO HIS OWN PACE!

HOLY MOLY... LOOK AT'EM PUNCHES...

A SINGLE DIRECT HIT FROM ONE OF THOSE MIGHT EVEN SEND TAKIGAWA FLYIN' OUTTA THE RING!

TAKI

WHOA!

HE'S DOWN!

DOO

S- STOP!

BARELY INTO THE FIRST ROUND, WE HAVE THE FIRST DOWN OF THE MATCH!

TAKIGAWA GOES DOWN!

GO BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

GROWL!

HE DIDN'T KNOCK ME DOWN!

I SLIPPED!

TAKIGAWA TRIES TO CONVINCE THE REF HE SLIPPED BUT IT'S NO GOOD!

EVEN IF HE DID LOSE HIS FOOTING JUST NOW, HE HAS NO ROOM TO ARGUE AS HE CLEARLY FELL WHILE TAKING A PUNCH TO HIS HEAD.

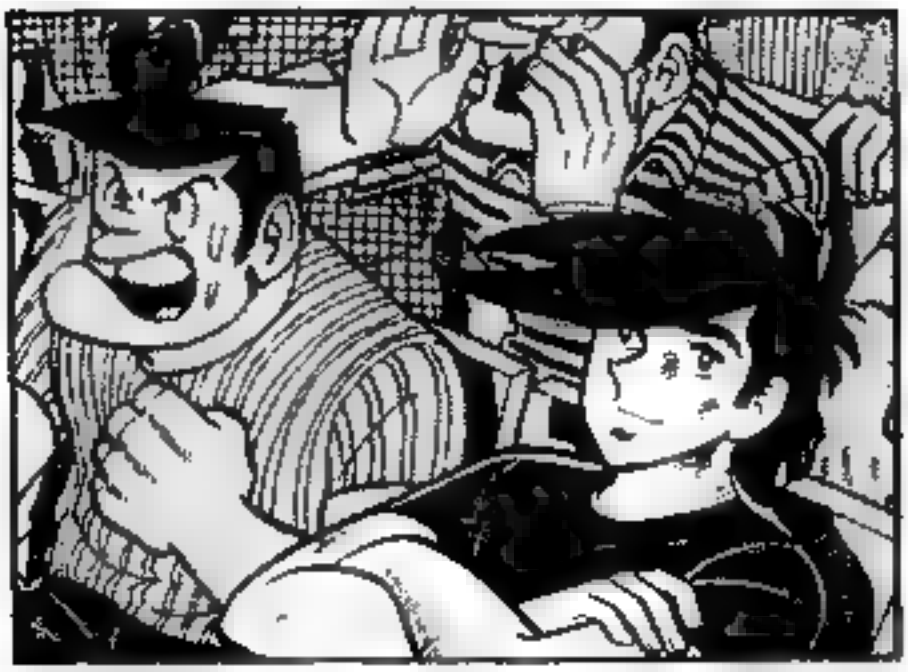
RAHHHH!

RESUME FIGHT!

GRR...

AHH! HERE COMES HARIMAU, GROWLING OUT OF THE CORNER!

HE ALREADY HAS HIS HANDS FULL JUST TRYING TO BLOCK AND DODGE!
AHHH! TAKIGAWA'S BACK ON THE DEFENSIVE AGAIN!
HE'S IN TROUBLE NOW!



I CAN BARELY WATCH THIS MATCH.
AH, JEEZ.

STOP RUNNING AWAY AND ATTACK! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF THE 6TH RANKED BOXER IN THE PACIFIC!?
WHAT THE HELL, TAKIGAWA!
HIT HIM BACK!

S-SHUUHE!! USE YOUR SPECIALTY!

GO WITH YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTERS TO CRUSH HIS NOSE FLAT!

HE DID IT!

YEAH!

JUST LIKE THAT, SHUUHEI!

THAT'S IT!

STOP!

5!

3!

4!

R-RIGHT...

GRR...

PANT

PANT

W-WAIT! YOUR GLOVES NEED TO BE WIPED FIRST!

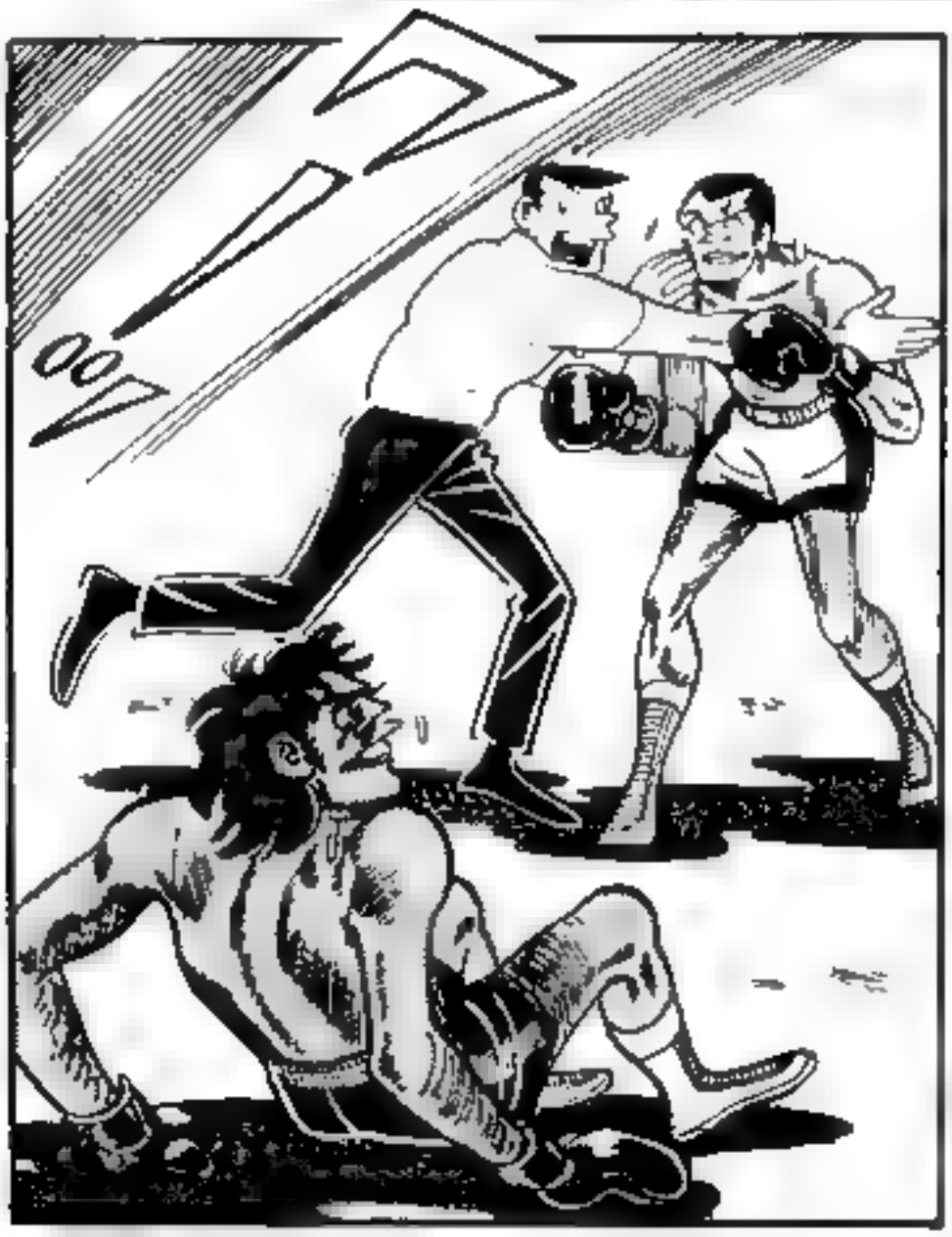
GRAWRR!

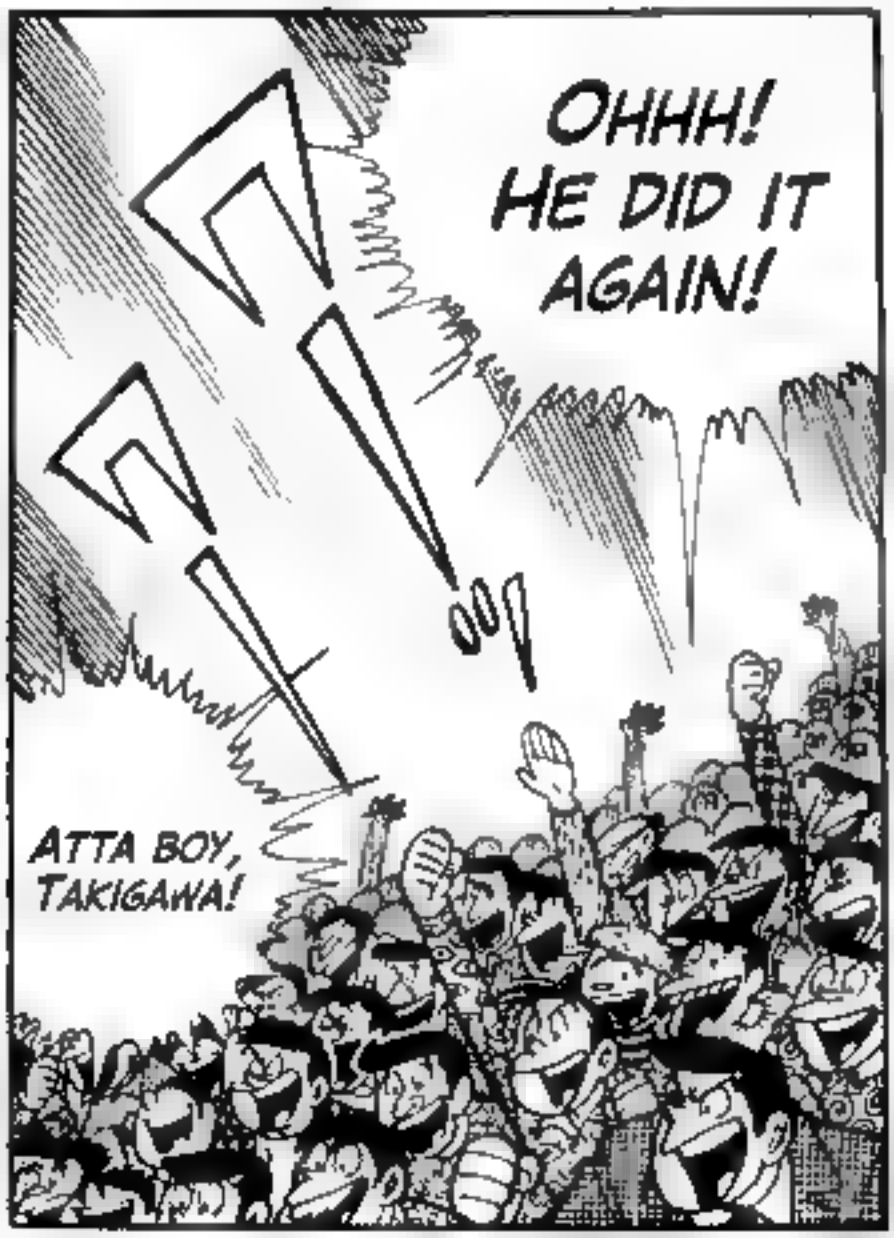
RAHHHH!

GRR...

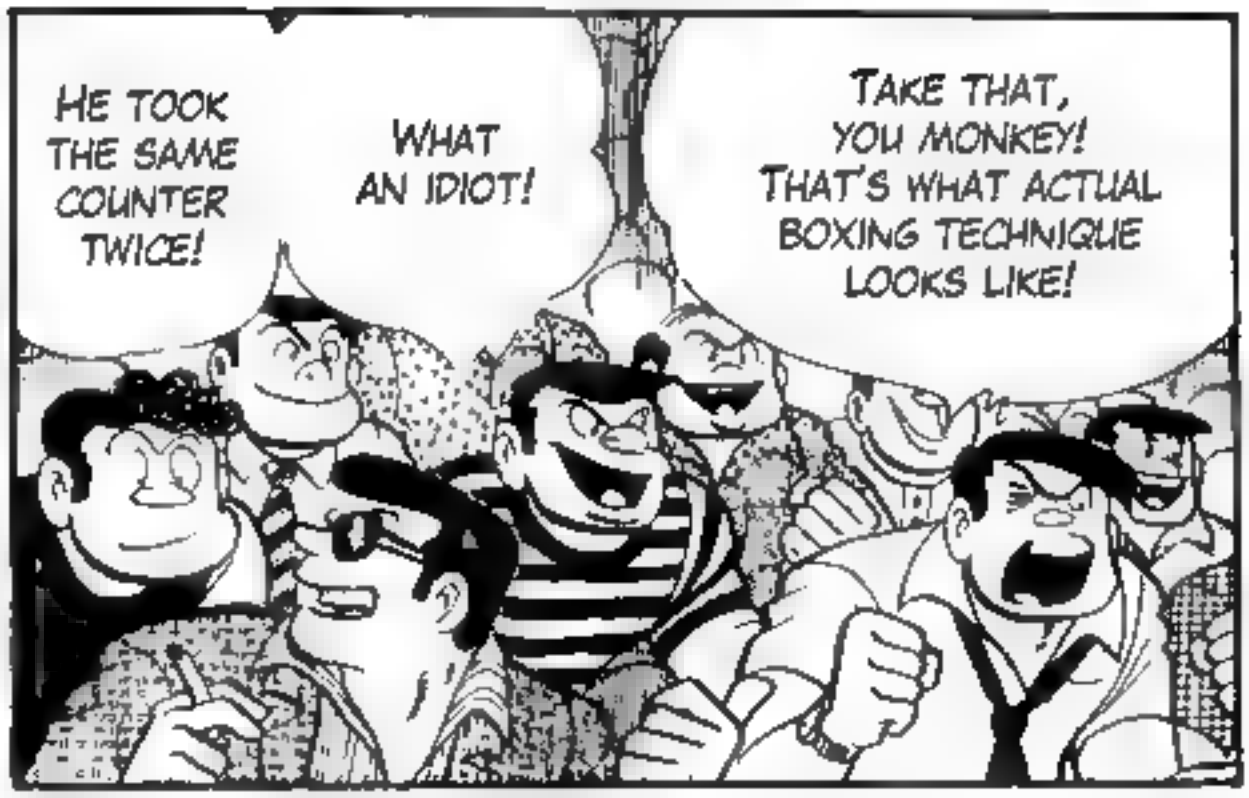
R-RESUME FIGHT!

KTO




OHHH! HE DID IT AGAIN!
ATTA BOY, TAKIGAWA!

GRR...
GRR...


HE TOOK THE SAME COUNTER TWICE!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
TAKE THAT, YOU MONKEY! THAT'S WHAT ACTUAL BOXING TECHNIQUE LOOKS LIKE!

GRAAWRR...
GRRR...

FIGHT!
GRRR...

HUFF
HUFF
GRRR...

SHUUHEI! ATTACK!

IF HE GETS KNOCKED DOWN ONE MORE TIME, THAT'LL BE A KO-LOSS!
YES, HE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO BE CAUTIOUS NOW.
LOOKS LIKE EVEN THE WILD HARIMAU'S GOTTEN CAUTIOUS AFTER GETTING KNOCKED DOWN TWICE QUICKLY.
HE CIRCLES AROUND SLOWLY WHILE LOOKING FOR AN OPENING.

GOT IT...

IT'S YOUR TURN TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE!

SHOW HIM THE POWER OF GOOD, CLEAN BOXING TECHNIQUES!

EAT THIS!

HE'S ABOVE YOU!

AHHH!

IT'S HARIMAU'S SPECIAL JUMP-ATTACK!

AH-

AHH-

HE DODGED IT!

NICE AIM, DUMBASS!

WOHHHH!

WOHHH!

NOW'S MY CHANCE ...

TAKE THIS!

I'M GONNA...

KNOCK YOU OUT THIS ROUND!

ドカッ

BUT TAKIGAWA SWIFTLY DODGES AND IS BACK ON THE OFFENSIVE!

H-HARIMAU JUST SHOWED US THE JUMPING AERIAL ATTACK HE'S FAMOUS FOR!

TAKIGAWA'S LEADING THIS FIGHT AT HIS OWN PACE NOW!

LET'S GO, SHUUHEI!

ALRIGHT! TAKE CARE OF THAT ANIMAL!

HEH.

HEE HEE.

TAKIGAWA'S TRAPPED HARIMAU INTO A CORNER AND IS FEEDING HIM A COMBO OF HOOKS AND STRAIGHTS!

EVEN HARIMAU'S SPECIAL JUMP ATTACKS ARE NO USE AGAINST HIS OPPONENT TAKIGAWA!

HARIMAU'S FRANTICALLY TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE ROPES!

MUCH OF THE SURPRISE FACTOR WAS PROBABLY LOST SINCE HARIMAU SHOWED OFF HIS JUMP-ATTACKS AT HIS PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT TAKIGAWA WOULD COME PREPARED FOR IT...

THE TIGER'S IN A BIND!

TAKIGAWA PRESSES ON!

GOT IT, COACH!

GO FOR THE FINISH!

THAT'S IT! YOU'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED!

HEH

SMASH

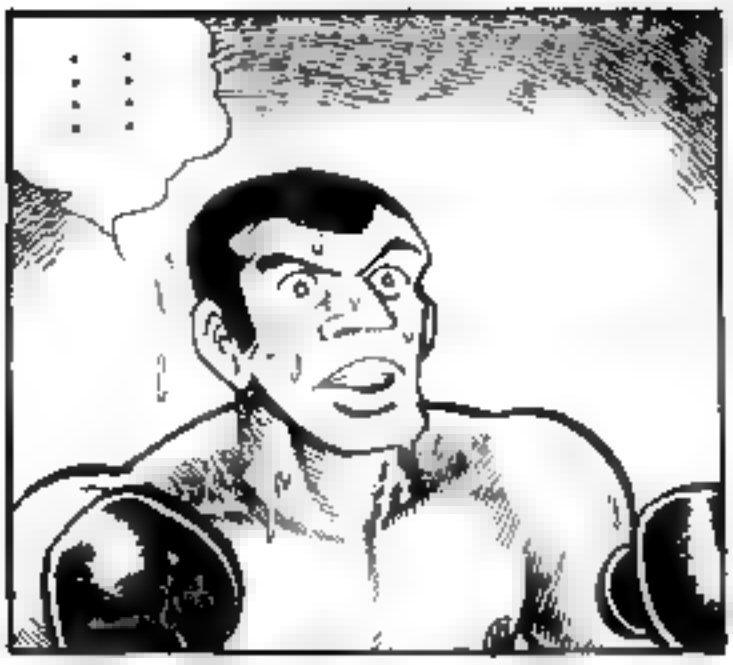
WATCH OUT! HE JUMPED AGAIN!

AHHH!

NGHH!

AHH-

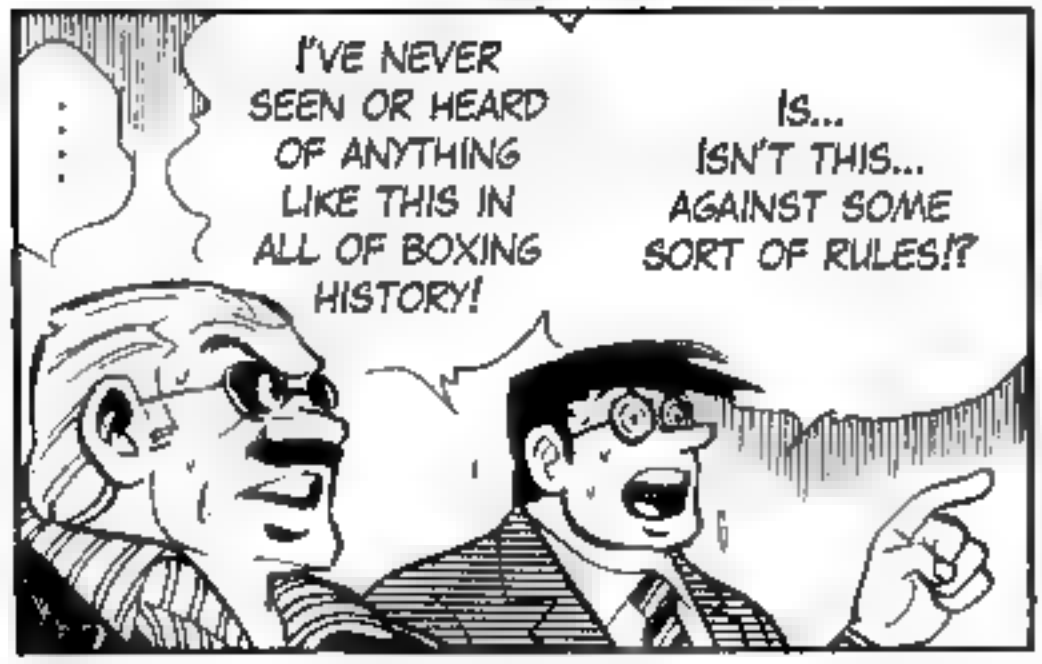
KEE KEE!


. . . .

KEE
KEE
KEE!
KEE!
AHH...
WHA...!

AGHH...

HE'S STANDING ON THE ROPES...!?
W-WHAT THE HELL!?


. . . .
I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN ALL OF BOXING HISTORY!
IS... ISN'T THIS... AGAINST SOME SORT OF RULES!?

WE CAME HERE TO SEE A FIGHT, NOT SOME MONKEY TURN ACROBATIC TRICKS!

THAT'S RIGHT!

GET OFF THE ROPES AND FIGHT PROPERLY!

IT'S A CLEAR VIOLATION!

HEY REF! WHAT'RE YOU JUST STANDING THERE FOR!? ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET THIS BULLCRAP SLIDE!?

HE SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED!

IT SAYS STEPPING OUTSIDE OF THE ROPES,

UMM... IN THE RULE BOOK,

HOWEVER ...

WILL COUNT AS AN AUTOMATIC LOSS BY DISQUALIFICATION.

HO! HO!

HO! HO!

ALL TAKIGAWA CAN DO IS STAND THERE WITH HIS MOUTH HANGING OPEN!

TAKIGAWA STANDS DUMBFOUNDED! SINCE LOW-BLOWS ARE ILLEGAL IN BOXING AND HARIMAU'S UPPER BODY IS OUT OF REACH,

THERE ARE NO RULES ABOUT STANDING ON THE ROPES!

NOT SURPRISING! WHAT SANE PERSON COULD HAVE EVEN IMAGINED A BOXER TO PULL SUCH A STUNT!?

G-GET DOWN FROM THERE!

IF YOU DON'T GET DOWN NOW, I'LL HAVE YOU DISQUALIFIED!

JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK BOXING IS!?

YOU LITTLE MONKEY!

DRAG HIM DOWN FROM THERE AND KILL HIM, TAKIGAWA!

AGHHH-

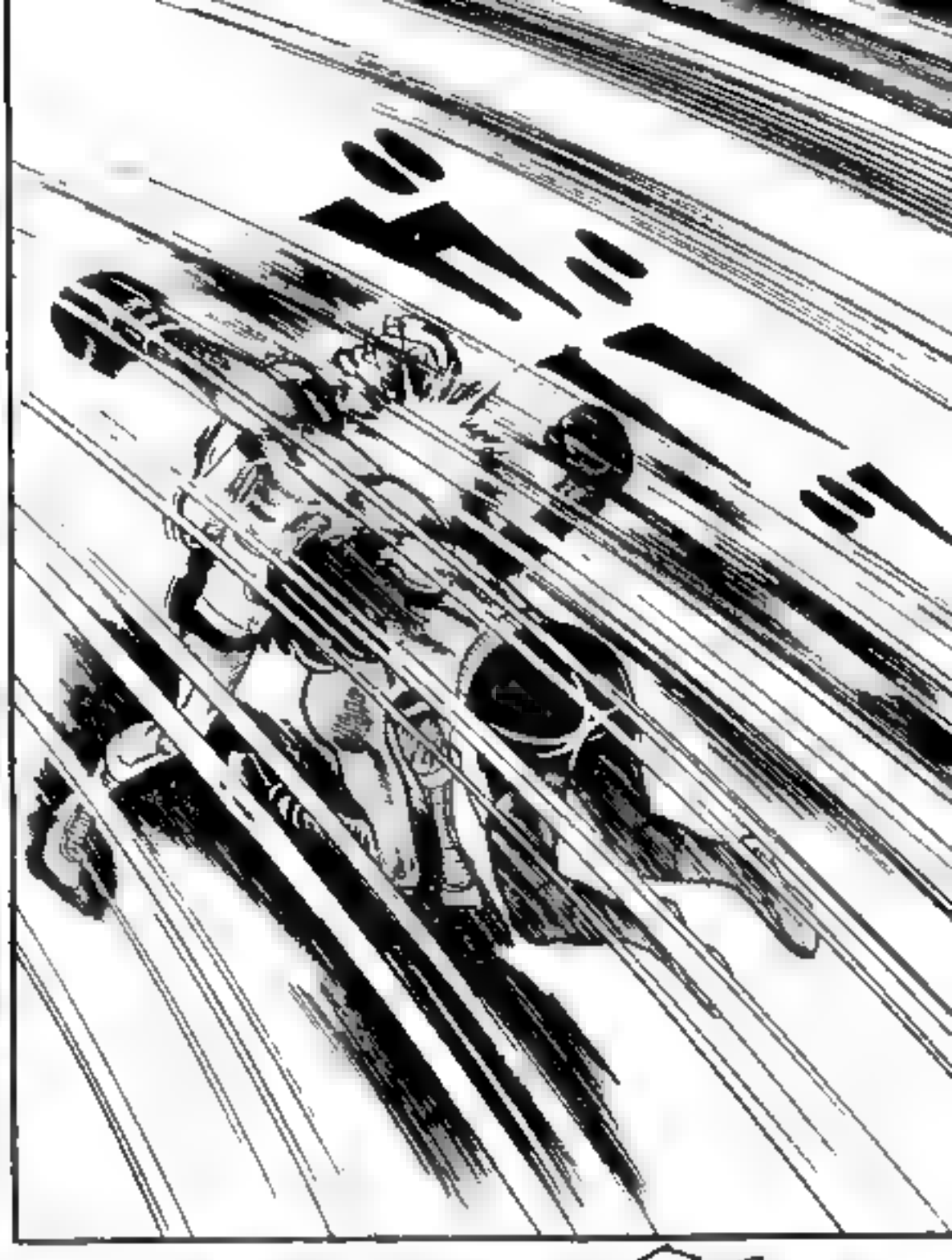
AHHH!

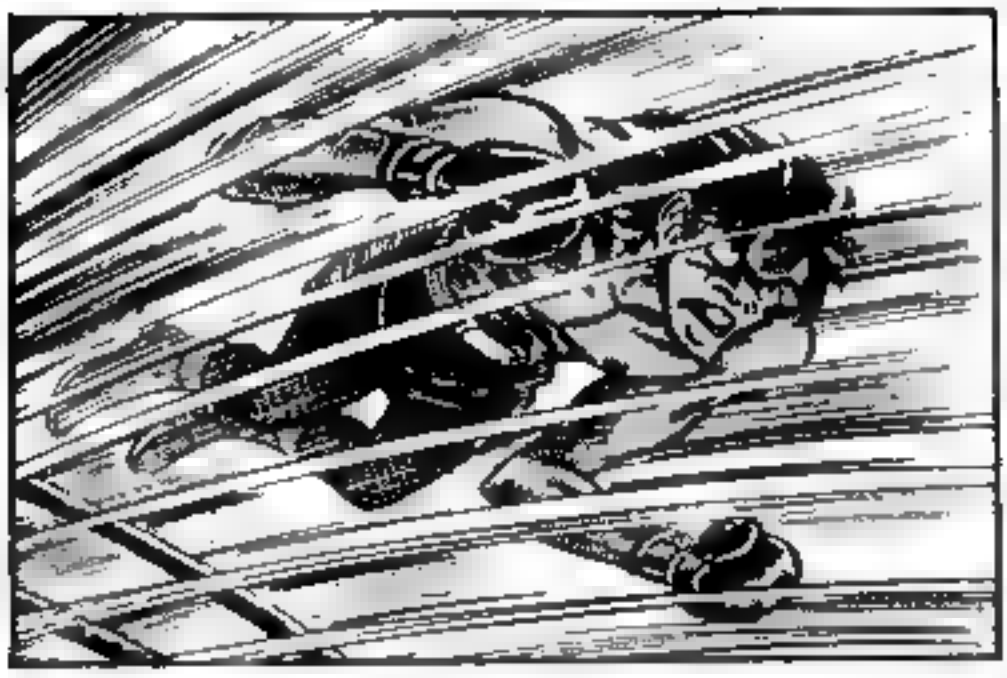
HAH!

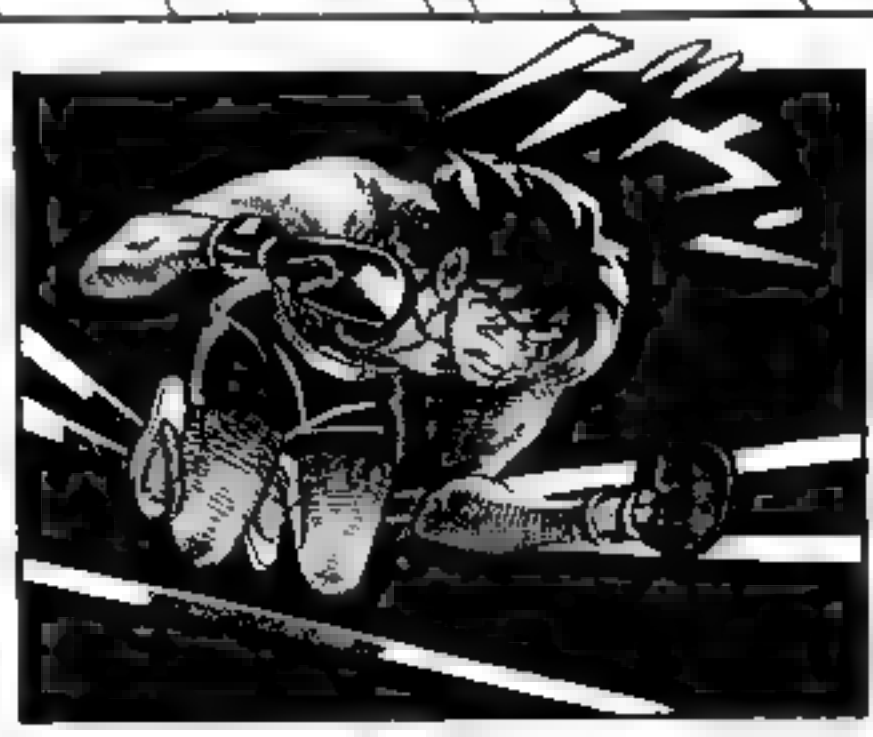
AH-

AGHHH!

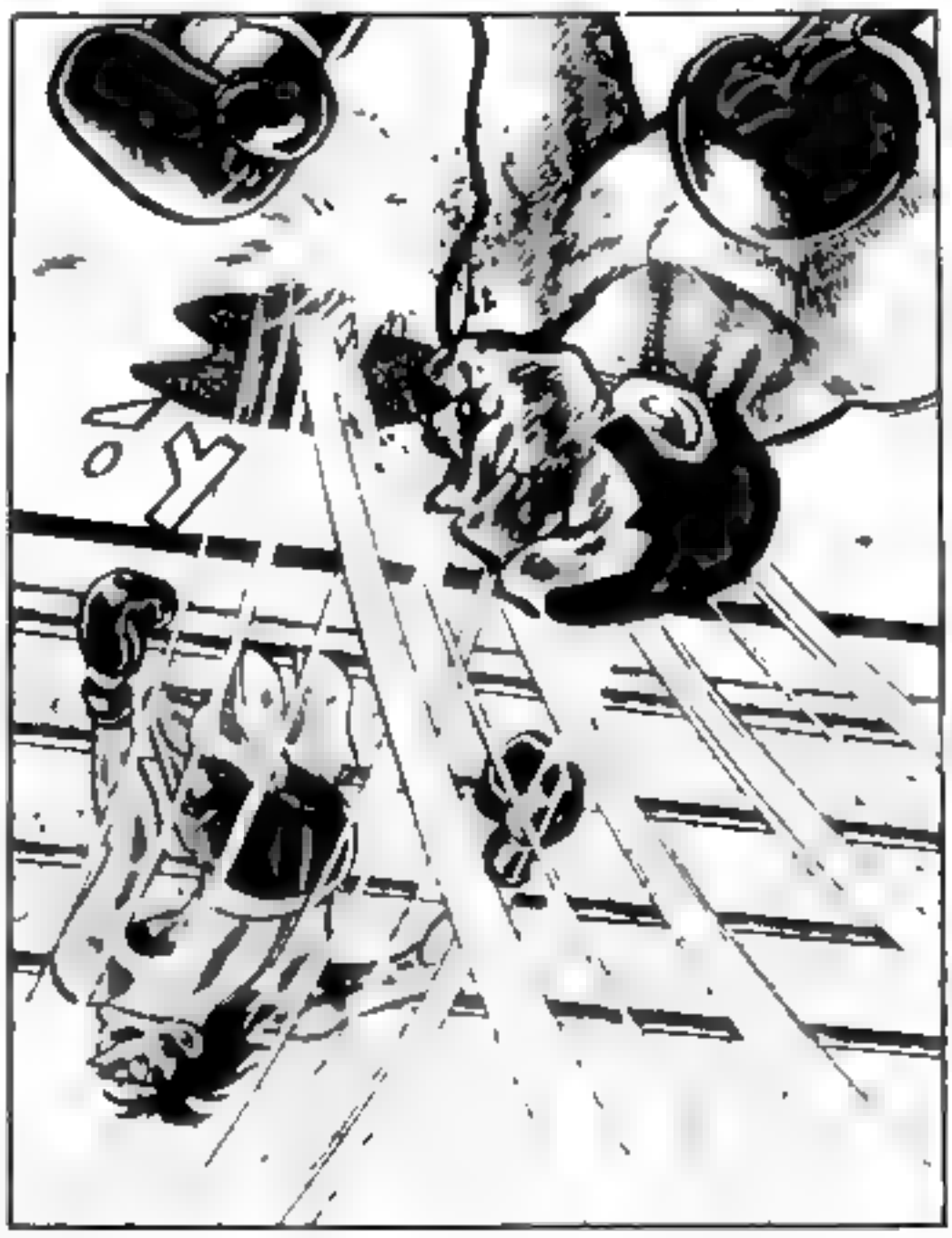
UGHH...







CLANG



HE'S LIKE A FLYING SQUIRREL OUT THERE...
AH...

GAHHH...
AHH...

APE!

THAT'S A DOWN! STOP!

STOP!

BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

IT SEEMS HE WAS SETTING UP FOR THIS ALL ALONG!

HARIMAU DIDN'T RUN BACK TO THE ROPES FOR NO REASON!

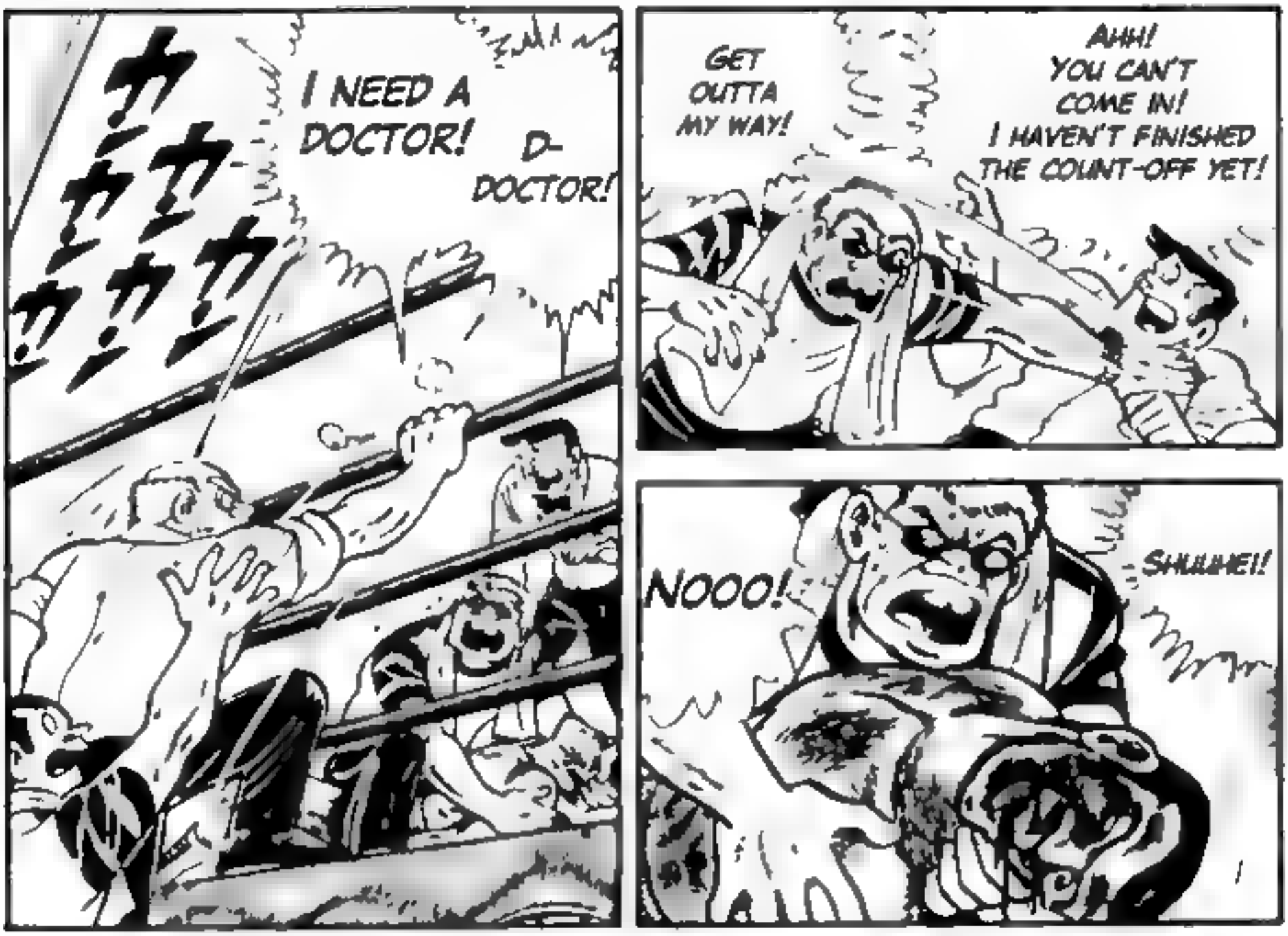
SHUUHEI!

S-SHUUHEI!

5!

3!

4!


I NEED A DOCTOR!
D-DOCTOR!
GET OUTTA MY WAY!
AHH! YOU CAN'T COME IN! I HAVEN'T FINISHED THE COUNT-OFF YET!
NOOO!
SHUUHE!!
THE UNRANKED HARIMAU STEPS ONTO THE PACIFIC LEAGUE RANKINGS!
THE KO COMES AT 2 MINUTES AND 57 SECONDS INTO THE FIRST ROUND!
IT'S A KO-LOSS FOR TAKIGAWA SHUUHE!!
SHUUHE!!
SHUUHE!!

WHERE'S PRESIDENT SHIRAKI!?

WAIT!

H-HARIMAU! IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!

GRR...

I SAID WHERE'S SHIRAKI YOUKO!?

SBC

ROTTEN BASTARDS...

YOU...

W... WE DIDN'T SEE HER COME TO THE HALL TONIGHT...

SB

AND WRECK THE PRECIOUS BOXER I CAREFULLY RAISED AFTER I SPENT TWENTY YEARS JUST TO FIND HIM!

HOW DARE THAT WOMAN BRING THIS ANIMAL HERE,

GRRR!

HARIMAU, NO!

GRAWRR!

MR. YOKOKURA!

CLUB OWNER YOKOKURA!

GRAWRRR!

THE MATCH IS OVER! CALM DOWN, HARIMAU!

LOOK! IT'S CHOCOLATE!

SBC

SHUUHE!...

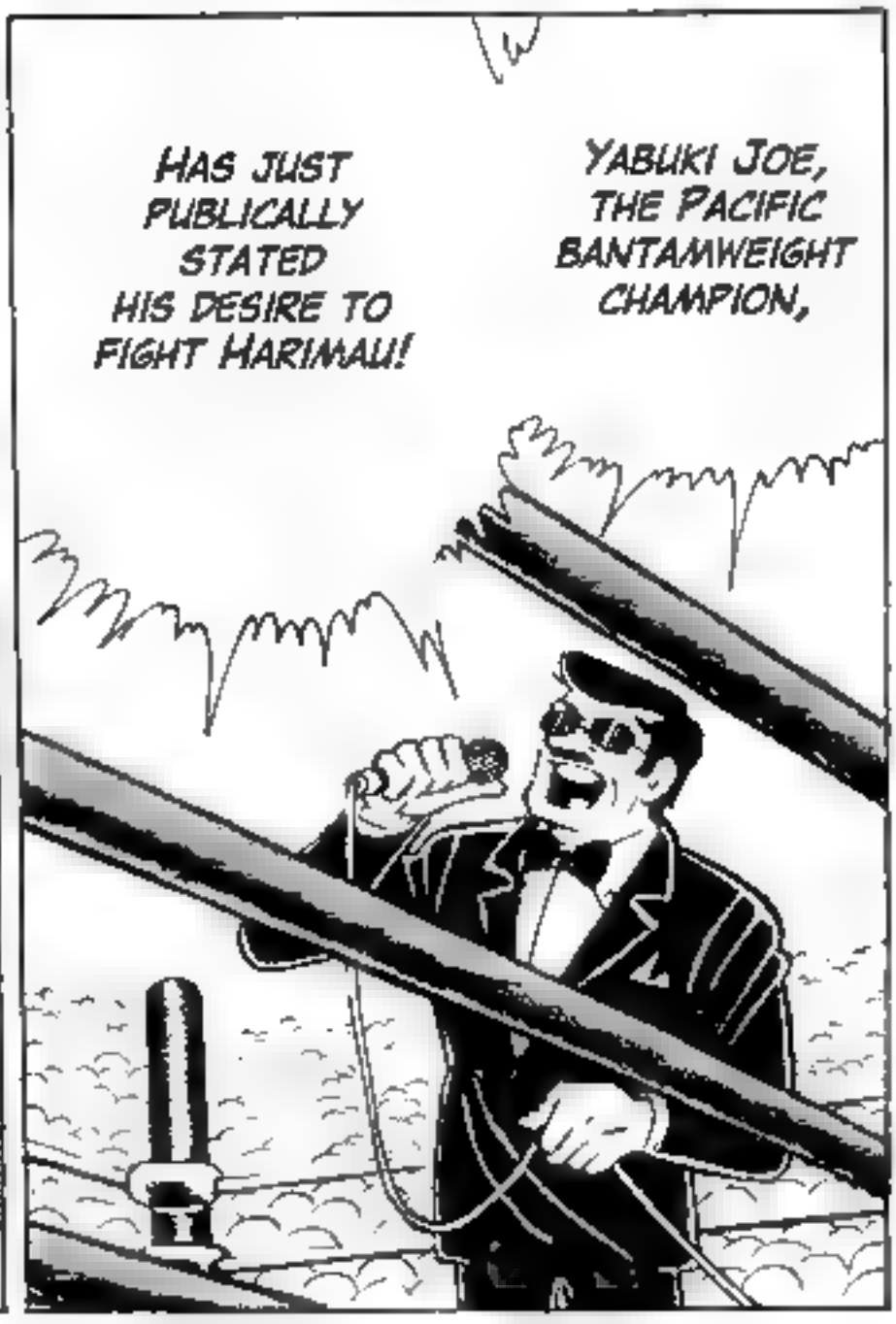
SNIFF...

Y-
YABUKI...

I'LL GET HIM BACK FOR THIS, CLUB OWNER YOKOKURA.

IN HIS NEXT MATCH!
I'LL AVENGE YOUR LOSS.

OHHH!
YABUKI WANTS TO FIGHT...?
REALLY!?

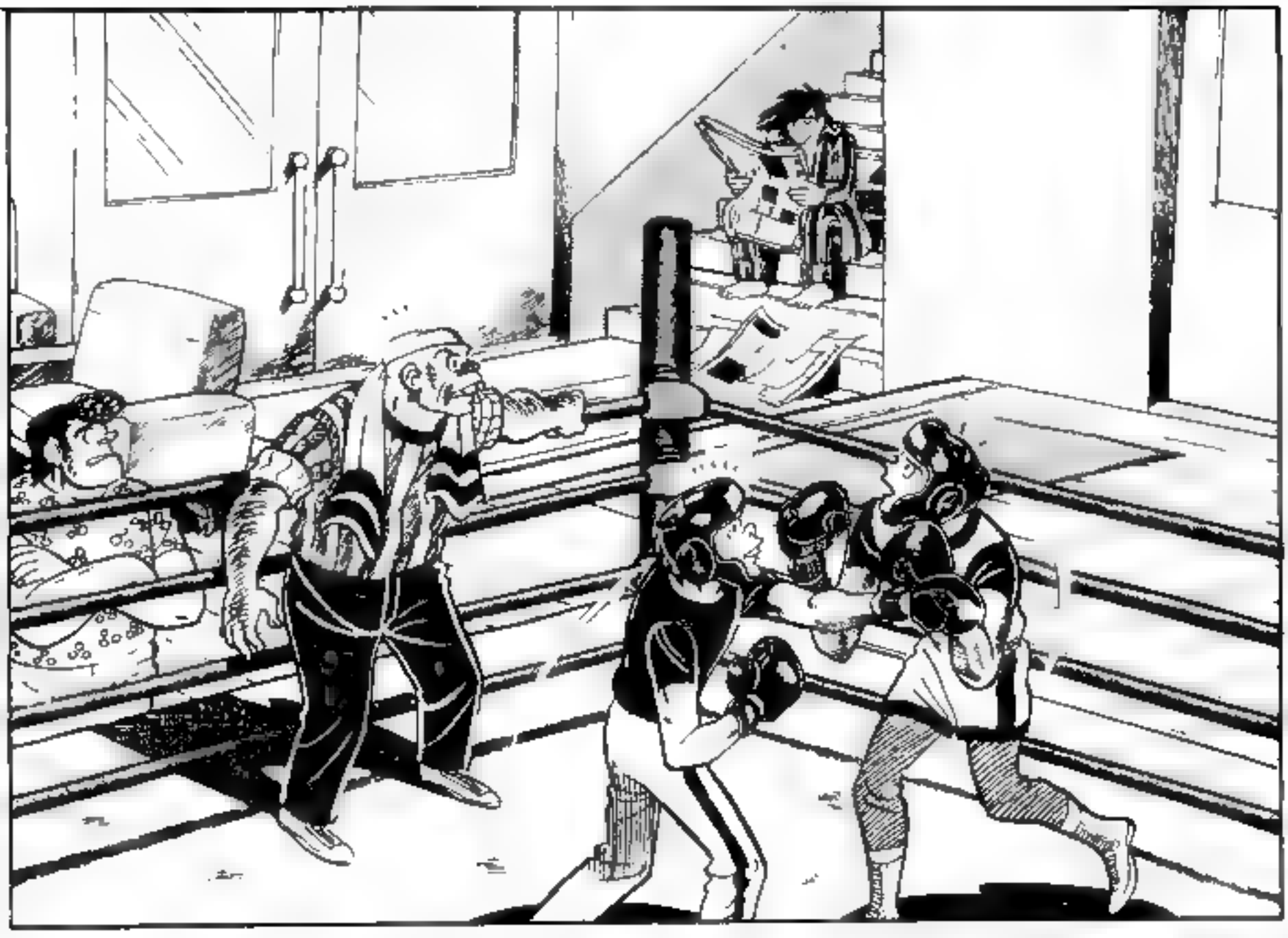

HAS JUST PUBLICALLY STATED HIS DESIRE TO FIGHT HARIMAU!
YABUKI JOE, THE PACIFIC BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION,

HUNT THAT ANIMAL DOWN AND AVENGE TAKIGAWA!

ALRIGHT, JOE!

WHEN'S THE MATCH GONNA BE!? TOMORROW? MAYBE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!?

I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO SELL MY WIFE, I'LL DEFINITELY BE THERE TO WATCH!



THE SUN'S ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SKY, YOU KNOW.
AREN'T YOU UP LATE...

VISITORS? LIKE WHO?

ANY VISITORS COME HERE FOR ME YET?
DID...

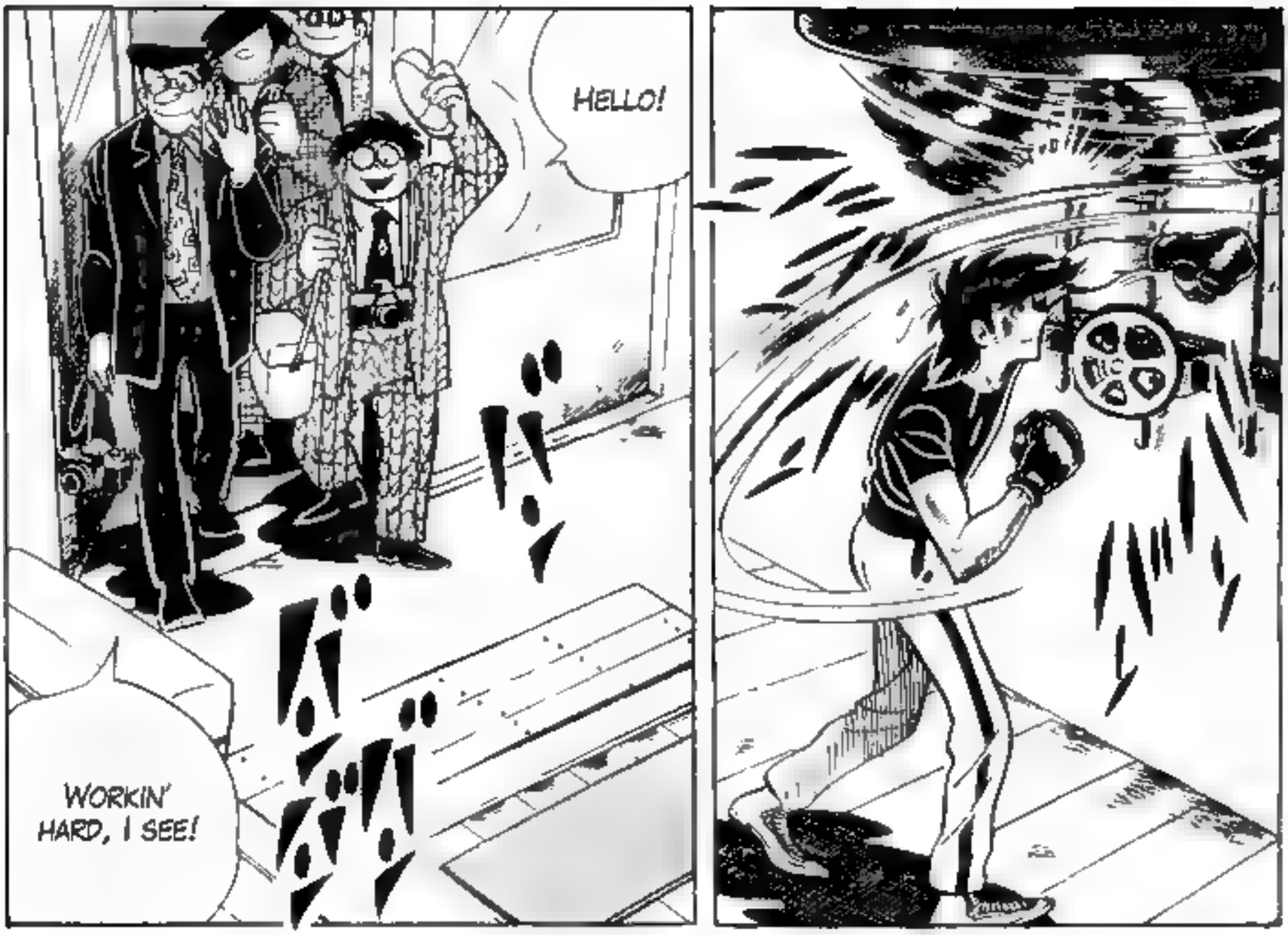
...

THAT'S ODD. THEY SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT ME LIKE YOU'RE SOME MOM ABOUT TO GROUND HER KID.
I GET IT, I GET IT.
YOU WANT ME TO START TRAINING, RIGHT?

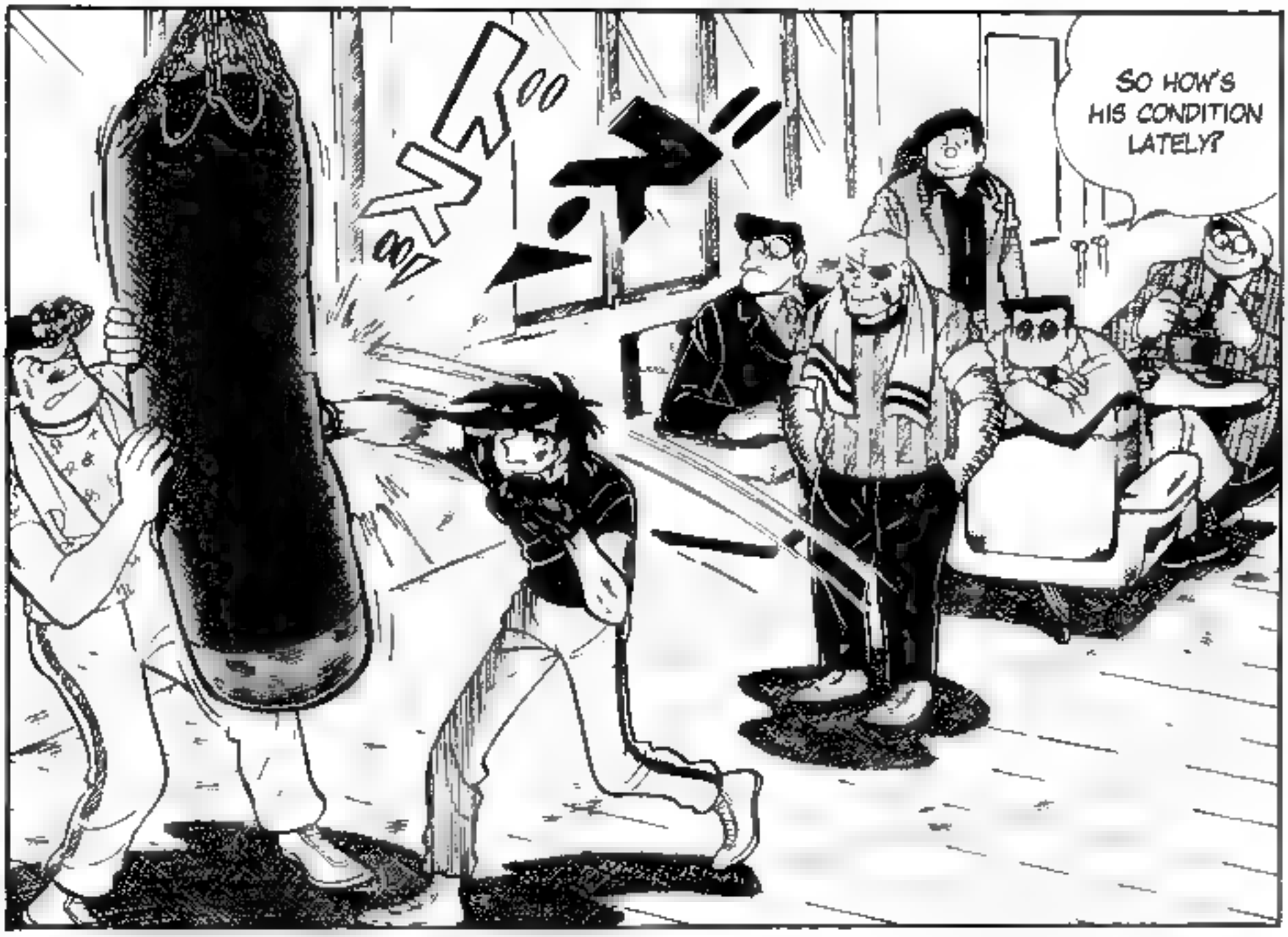
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET STARTED.

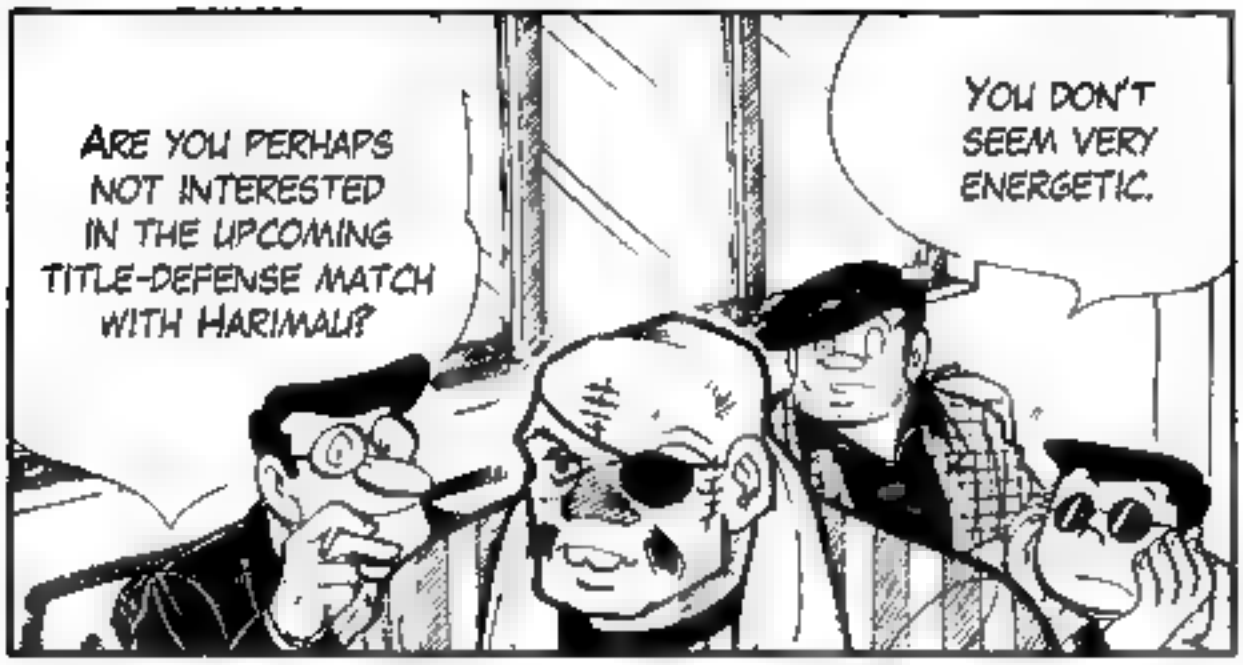
YOU NEED TO BE SHARPER!
WHAT'S WITH YOUR FORM!?
AND PUT YOUR LEGS INTO IT MORE!
TUCK IN YOUR CHIN!


HELLO!
WORKIN' HARD, I SEE!

BUT TODAY'S ONE OF THE DAYS WE'RE ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW HIM, YOU KNOW.
WHAT?
YOU'LL MAKE HIM LOSE FOCUS SO PLEASE LEAVE FOR TODAY.
N-NO, NOT NOW! HE JUST STARTED HIS WORKOUT!

WE'LL JUST SIT HERE AND TAKE A LOOK, OKAY?
DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T BOTHER HIS WORKOUT ROUTINE.


SO HOW'S HIS CONDITION LATELY?


ARE YOU PERHAPS NOT INTERESTED IN THE UPCOMING TITLE-DEFENSE MATCH WITH HARIMAU?
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY ENERGETIC.

NOTHING MUCH TO SAY, REALLY...
HIS CONDITION?

IN SHORT, IT WON'T PREPARE JOE AT ALL AGAINST JOSÉ MENDOZA, WHO FIGHTS LIKE A TRUE MASTER AT THE SPORT.
IT'S UNIMPORTANT WHETHER I'M INTERESTED OR NOT... IT'S OBVIOUS TO ANYONE THAT THE MATCH AGAINST HARIMAU WILL TURN INTO A BRAWL, NOT A REAL BOXING MATCH.

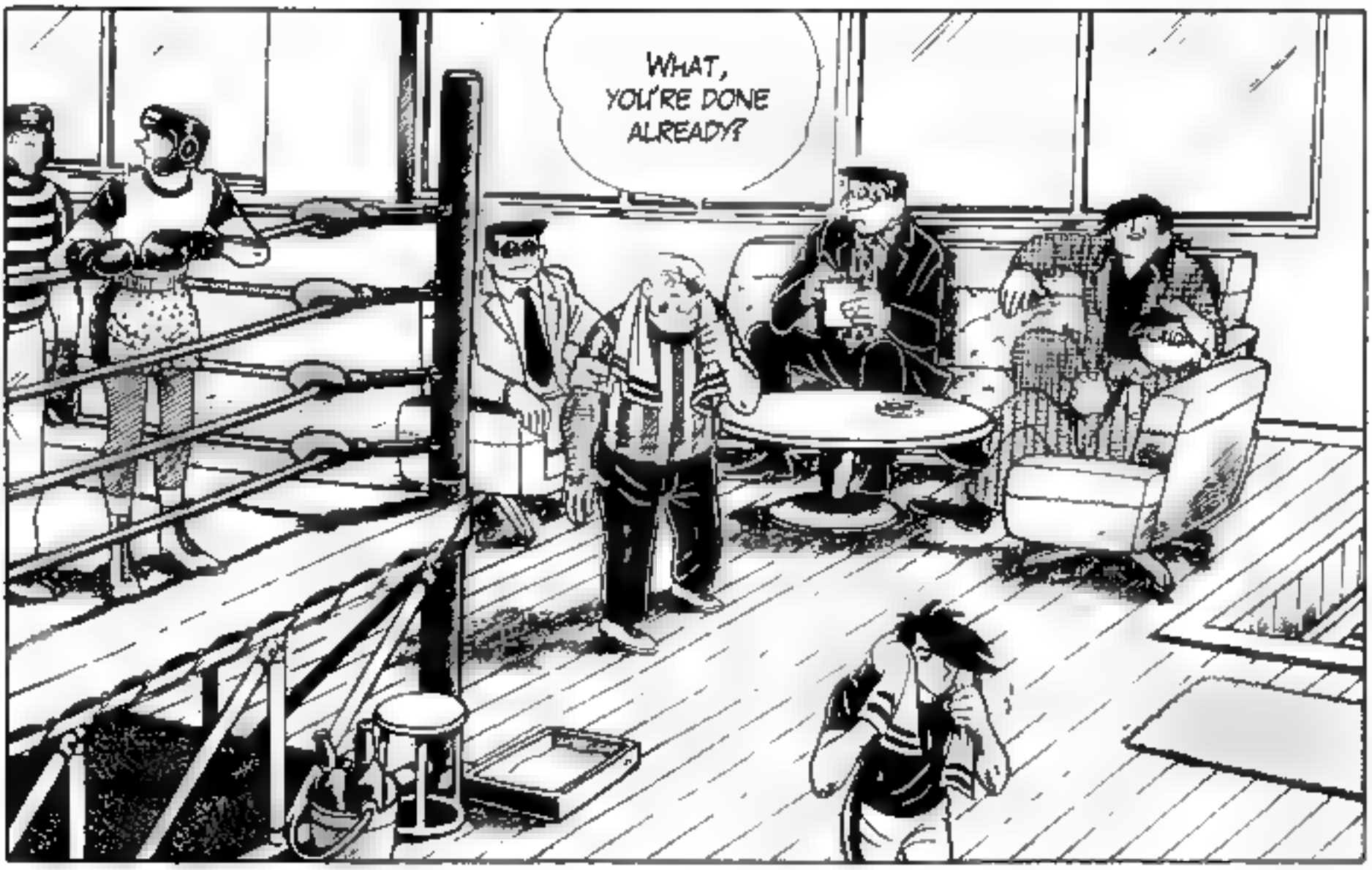
SO IT'S A RELUCTANT MATCH, EH?
HMM..

SHIRAKI PROMOTIONS WILL HAND OVER THE RIGHTS TO HOLD THE WORLD-TITLE MATCH HERE IN JAPAN... SO THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
BUT BY ACCEPTING THIS MATCH,
RIGHT, OLD MAN?

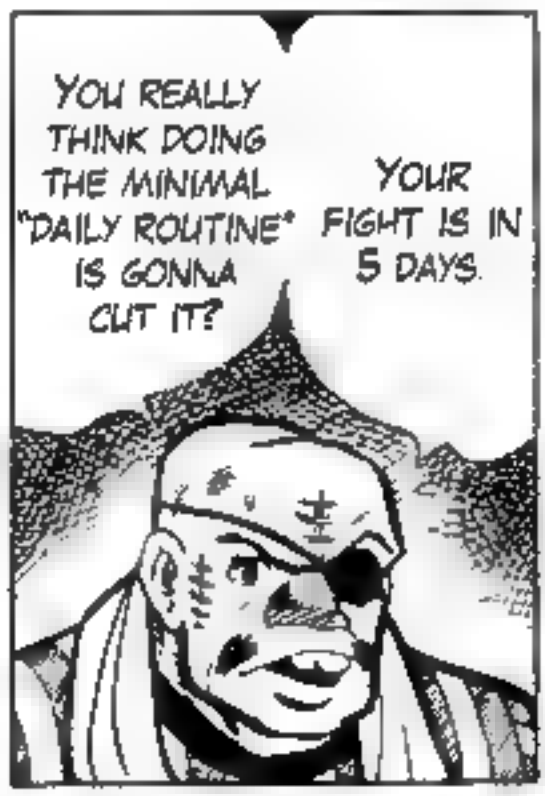
BEATS ME...

NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK JOE'S CHANCES OF WINNING ARE?

THAT'S ENOUGH. HAND ME A TOWEL.
HUH...?
SURE.


WHAT, YOU'RE DONE ALREADY?

YOU AND I BOTH SAW THE RESULTS OF THAT MATCH... EVEN THE 6TH RANKING TAKIGAWA ON A HOT-STREAK COULD BARELY PUT UP A DECENT FIGHT.
UNDER-ESTIMATE HARIMAU AND IT'LL BE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE.


YOU REALLY THINK DOING THE MINIMAL "DAILY ROUTINE" IS GONNA CUT IT?
YOUR FIGHT IS IN 5 DAYS.

I'VE ALREADY FINISHED MY DAILY ROUTINE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT TONE?

SHOULD I PRACTICE JUMPING ON THE ROPES LIKE THAT MONKEY? HAHAHA.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

HMPH. THAT'S SOME CONFIDENCE.

I'M NOT UNDERESTIMATING HIM, BUT I'M NOT AFRAID OF FIGHTING WITH HIM EITHER.

I'M NOT.

BUT I'M DIFFERENT.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW THAT I WAS BORN AS A BRAWLER, NOT A BOXER.

TAKIGAWA,

WAS JUST TOO MUCH OF AN ORTHODOX BOXER, WHICH MADE HIM VULNERABLE TO HARIMAO'S WILD, UNPREDICTABLE STYLE.

HE GOT TAKEN OFF HIS GAME AND GOT SUCKED INTO HARIMAU'S PACE... IN THE END, HE WAS BEATEN WHILE DUMBFOUNDED, UNABLE TO UTILIZE ANY OF HIS STRENGTHS.

ENOUGH EXCUSES. GET ON THE RING.

IN FACT, I'D PULL A TRICK OF MY OWN TO STUMP HIM...

I AIN'T THE TYPE TO GET FLUSTERED OVER HIS WEIRD ATTACKS.

KOUNO! HAND ME THE MITTS!

I SAID GET ON THE RING!

OH COME ON. I JUST TOOK A SHOWER.

DOING STUFF LIKE THAT AIN'T-

THIS IS POINTLESS... GIVE IT A REST.

GOT IT!?

HIT THESE PUNCHING MITTS AS IF THEY WERE HARIMAU.

H-HERE...

BRACE YOURSELF THEN.

OK,

IT'LL BE YOUR OWN FAULT IF I KNOCK YOU OUT!

POINTLESS!?

I'LL DO IT. HAPPY, NOW?

FINE, FINE.

AH-

HA!

HAH!

NGH...

TAKE THIS!

AND THAT!

AGH...

THE OLD MAN'S WHOLE BODY SHAKES EVERY TIME HE RECEIVES ONE OF YABUKI'S PUNCHES.
L-LOOK AT THAT POWER...

WHOA, DESPITE TANGE'S UNENTHUSIASTIC REPLY, YABUKI'S ON FIRE...

Y-YOU SAID IT...

YEAH.

THEY MIGHT TALK LIKE THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT HARIMAU... BUT THEIR TRAINING SAYS OTHERWISE.

LI-UGH...

WHAT'S WRONG, OLD MAN?

L-LOOK.. TANGE'S TURNED COMPLETELY PALE...

AFTER GETTING SURPRISED AT BOTH THE AIRPORT AND SHIRAKI GYM, THERE'S NO ROOM FOR YABUKI TO UNDERESTIMATE HIS OPPONENT.

STAND UP PROPERLY!

AHH!

HAH!

AGHHH!

ACK!

YOU HAVE MY COMPLI-MENTS.

THAT'S WHAT I WANNA SEE ON THE RING.

GOOD...

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, PRESIDENT TANGE?

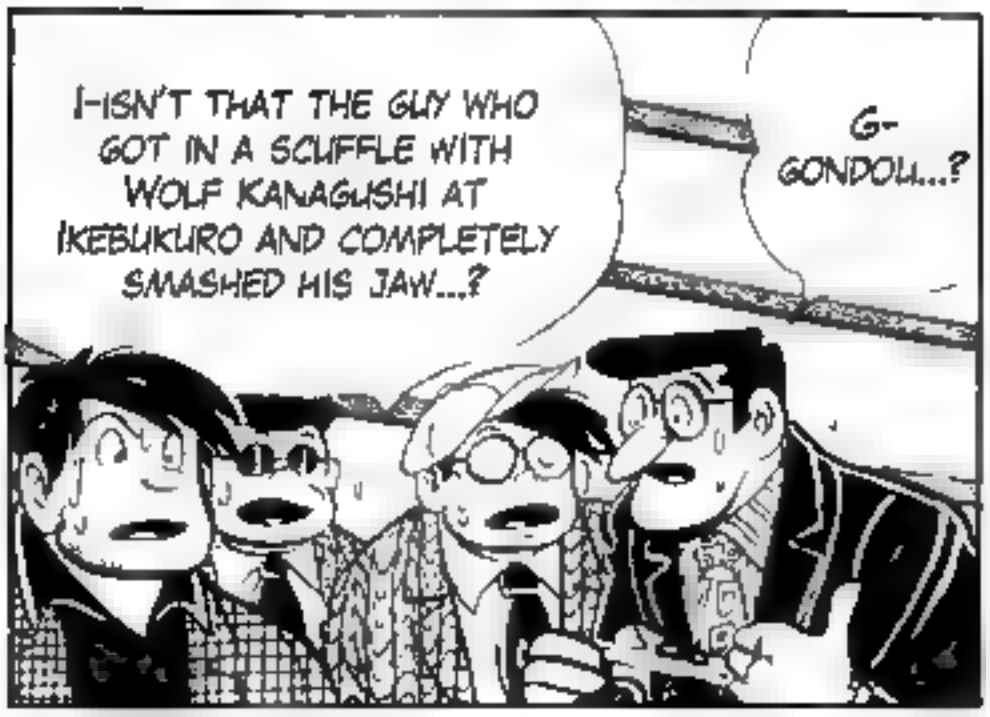
OWW OWW OWWW...

NOW LET'S CONTINUE UNTIL YOU WEAR DOWN THESE MITTS.

NO, LET'S STOP FOR NOW. MY GUESTS ARE HERE.

GUESTS...?

YOU SEEM WELL.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?


I-ISN'T THAT THE GUY WHO GOT IN A SCUFFLE WITH WOLF KANAGUSHI AT IKEBUKURO AND COMPLETELY SMASHED HIS JAW...?
G-GONDOU...?

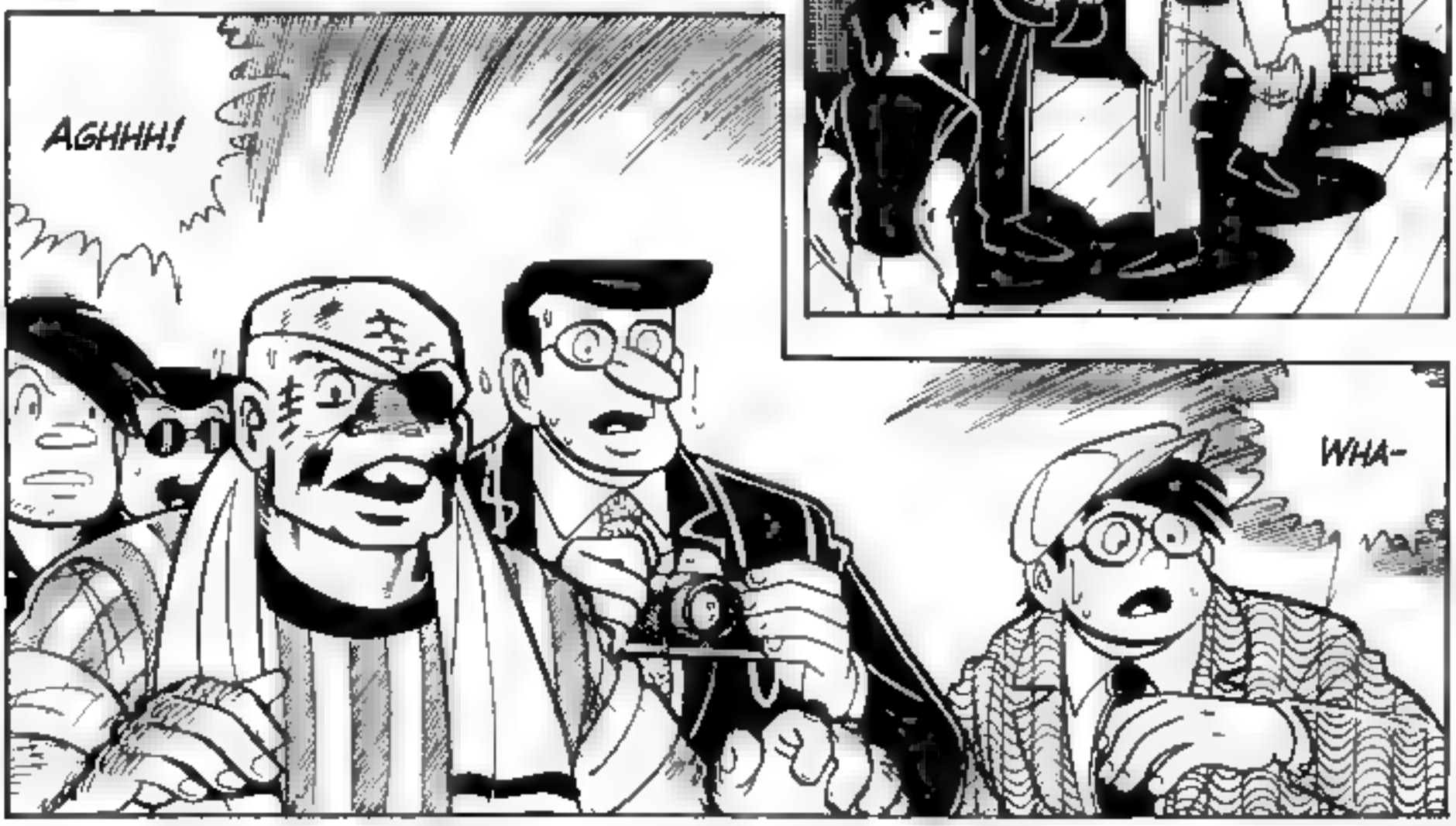
HEY THERE, GONDOU. THANKS FOR COMING.

G-GANGSTER GONDOU!?
AHHH!

CAN I ASK YOU TO GET PREPARED RIGHT AWAY?
SINCE MY MATCH IS COMING SOON,

BUT IF YOU WANT, WE CAN PLAY WITH SOME TOYS LIKE THESE...

OUR FISTS AND LEGS ARE WHAT WE FIGHT WITH, AFTER ALL.
HEH HEH. NOTHIN' MUCH TO PREPARE...


AGHHH!
WHA-

SO PUT IT AWAY!
THIS IS ALL POINTLESS IF WE WERE TO SERIOUSLY INJURE YABUKI BEFORE HIS MATCH.
DON'T TAKE OUT SHIT LIKE THAT...

J-JOE, WAIT...

W-WHY DID YOU CALL ALL THESE GANGSTERS?

ALRIGHT, COME UP TO THE RING THEN.

HAHA...

LOOK, IT'S FINE. JUST KEEP QUIET AND WATCH.

J-JOE...

IF WE ALL GET IN THE RING AT ONCE, WE'LL BUMP INTO EACH OTHER AND WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT PROPERLY!

HOLD ON, BOYS. THIS AIN'T RUSH-HOUR.

HEH HEH.

HEE HEE.

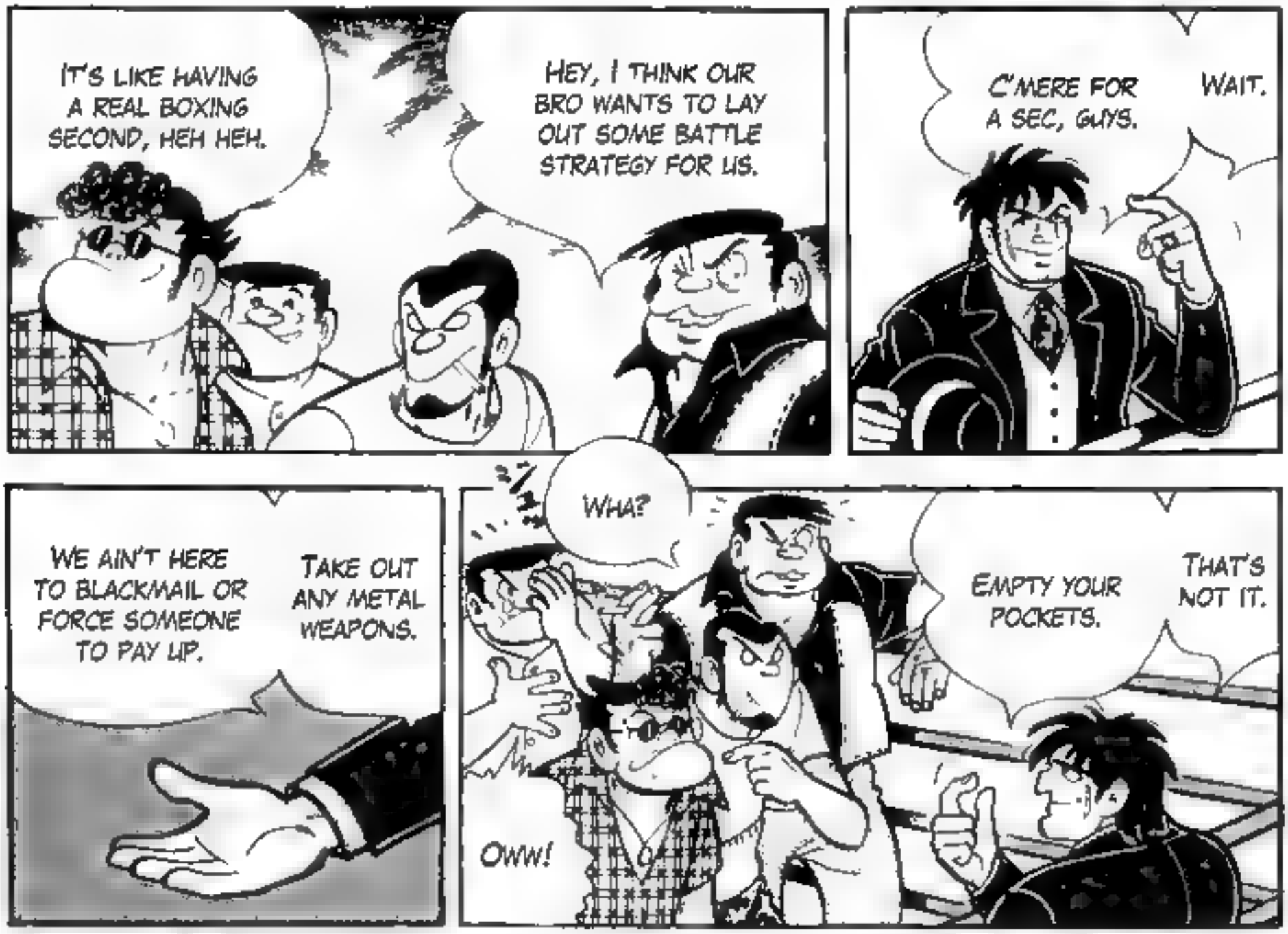
PFFT... WHAT'RE WE, SECOND-LINERS?

HMPH.

EVERYONE ELSE, WAIT YOUR TURN OUTSIDE!

TATSU, HIDE, KICHI, TOME! STAY IN THE RING!

CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE THESE GUNS A WORKOUT!
HEH HEH. THIS IS PRETTY EXCITING FIGHTING ON AN ACTUAL BOXING RING.
STOP WASTIN' TIME AND RING THE DAMN BELL ALREADY!


IT'S LIKE HAVING A REAL BOXING SECOND, HEH HEH.
HEY, I THINK OUR BRO WANTS TO LAY OUT SOME BATTLE STRATEGY FOR US.
C'MERE FOR A SEC, GUYS.
WAIT.
WE AIN'T HERE TO BLACKMAIL OR FORCE SOMEONE TO PAY UP.
TAKE OUT ANY METAL WEAPONS.
WHA?
EMPTY YOUR POCKETS.
THAT'S NOT IT.
OWW!

SAME GOES FOR THE REST OF YOU TOO.

ACHOO!

MAN, I FEEL ALMOST NAKED WITHOUT 'EM...

FINE...

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CARRYING AROUND STUFF LIKE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...

HA...

STOP PISSING YOUR PANTS. IT'S EMBARRASSING.

WHAT'RE YOU-

J-JOE!

A-AGHH...

DOING ORTHODOX TRAINING ROUTINES LIKE WHAT WE JUST DID AIN'T GONNA CUT IT.

I'M FIGHTING HARIMAU, REMEMBER?

HELP ME PUT ON MY GLOVES.

COME ON.

AND LEARN TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

SO I GOTTA TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT,

I'M FIGHTING A MONKEY THAT JUMPS AROUND THE ROPES WHILE ATTACKING.

.....

RING THE BELL, KOUNO!

ALRIGHT!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GONNA DO SOMETHING LIKE MOCK STREET-FIGHTING WITH THESE GUYS?

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED...?

IT AIN'T MOCK-ANYTHING. IT'S THE REAL THING.

HEH

HEH HEH

AND THOSE GUYS AREN'T EVEN WEARING GLOVES!

W-WAIT! WHAT ABOUT YOUR HEADGEAR?

WHAT, YOU THINK THESE GUYS USUALLY FIGHT WITH GLOVES ON?

I'LL HAVE MY BOYS PUT ON SOME HEAVY TRAINING GLOVES TOO.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS AND WEAR HEADGEAR AT LEAST.

YOUR MATCH IS IN JUST 5 DAYS. IT'D BE PROBLEMATIC IF WE WERE TO INJURE YOU SERIOUSLY, NO MATTER HOW UNLIKELY THAT IS.

NO, WAIT.

THIS WHOLE SPECIAL TRAINING'S MEANINGLESS IF I CAN EXPECT THE KINDS OF ATTACKS THEY'LL COME AT ME WITH.

NO.

ALRIGHT BOYS. LET'S ALL PUT ON SOME GL-

THESE GUYS CAN GET UNPREDICTABLY VIOLENT.

SO COME AT ME WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.

IN ORDER TO REALLY PREPARE FOR MY UPCOMING MATCH, I'VE GOTTA HONE MY ANIMAL-LIKE INSTINCTS AND A SENSE FOR FIGHTING WITHOUT RULES.

BESIDES, IF WE DECLAW THESE GUYS TOO MUCH, IT'LL BE HARD FOR THEM TO GET REALLY WILD.

.....

UMM...

RING THE BELL!

KOUNO! WHAT'S THE HOLDUP FOR!?

THAT'S RIGHT. ONCE WE START, AIN'T NOTHING'S GONNA STOP US, SHORT OF A POLICE CAR'S SIREN.

IT'S FINE. WE DON'T NEED NO BELL TO TELL US TO START FIGHTING.

ALRIGHT, THEN COME AT ME WHEN YOU'RE R-

HAHA, THAT'S TRUE.

OOF!

UGHH!

SORRY 'BOUT THIS,

WE AIN'T ONES TO TURN DOWN A CHANCE AT A GOOD FIGHT!

BUT THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT!

AGHHH...

WHAT IS THIS, PRO-WRESTLING...?

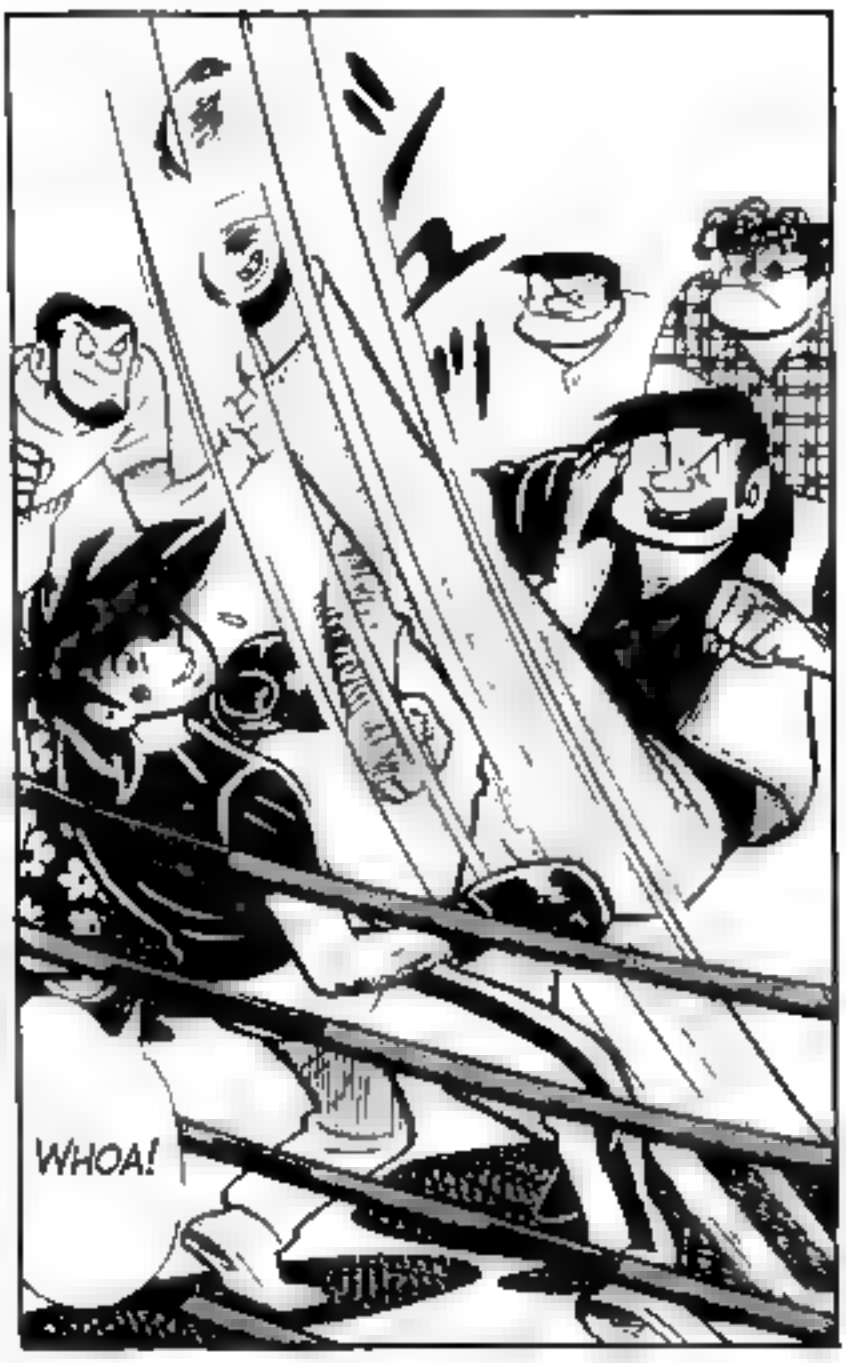
THIS IS INSANE...

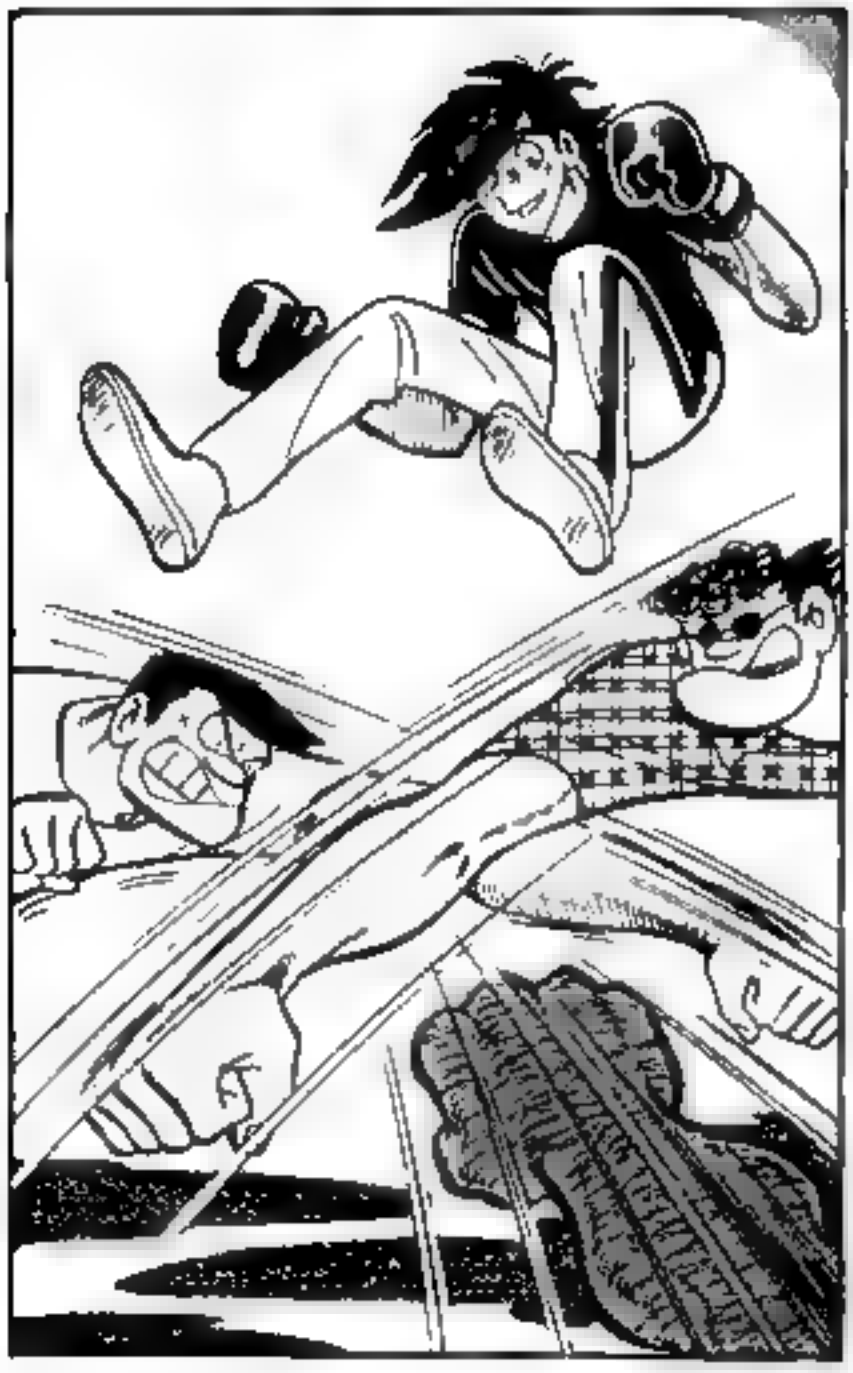
FEELIN' SLEEPY YET?

HEH HEH. I GUESS EVEN A PRO-BOXER'S HELPLESS IF HE'S TAKEN OFF-GUARD.

UGHH...

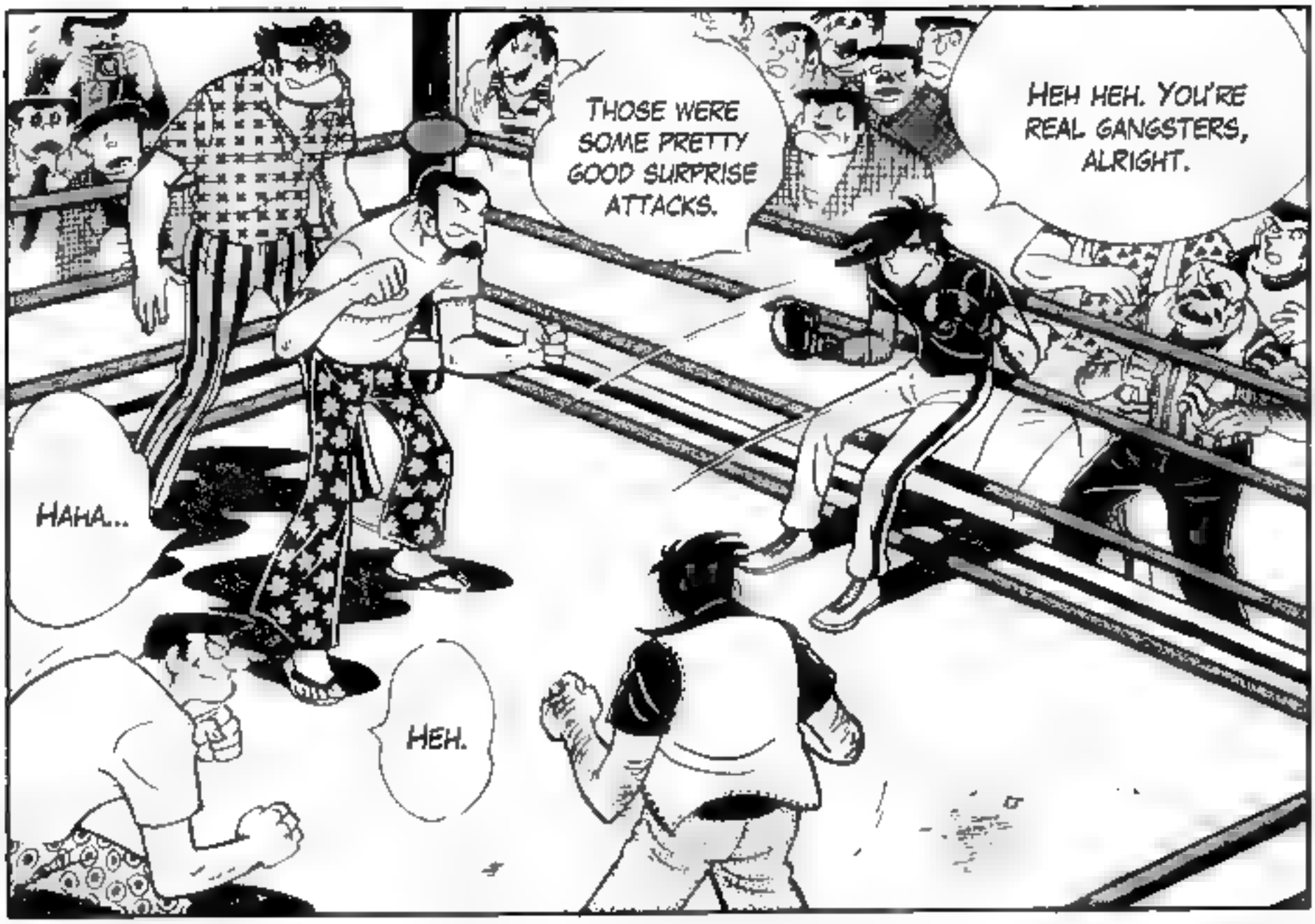
YOU'RE DONE FOR!


WHOA!



N-NOT YET...

THE FIGHT'S JUST BEGINNING!


HAHA...
HEH.
THOSE WERE SOME PRETTY GOOD SURPRISE ATTACKS.
HEH HEH. YOU'RE REAL GANGSTERS, ALRIGHT.

COME AT ME ALREADY!
WHAT'S WRONG!?

W-WHAT...!

ONCE YOU'RE ON THE DEFENSIVE.
YOUR FIGHTING STYLE WON'T BE SO EFFECTIVE,
IF YOU DON'T COME, THEN I WILL.

AHHH!

AH-

DAMMIT!

WHOA WHOA.

YOU THINK YOU CAN CATCH ME WITH ATTACKS LIKE THOSE!?

GOT IT?

IF YOU DON'T KNOCK ME OUT, I'LL KNOCK YOU GUYS OUT JUST AS I PROMISED EARLIER.

THUD

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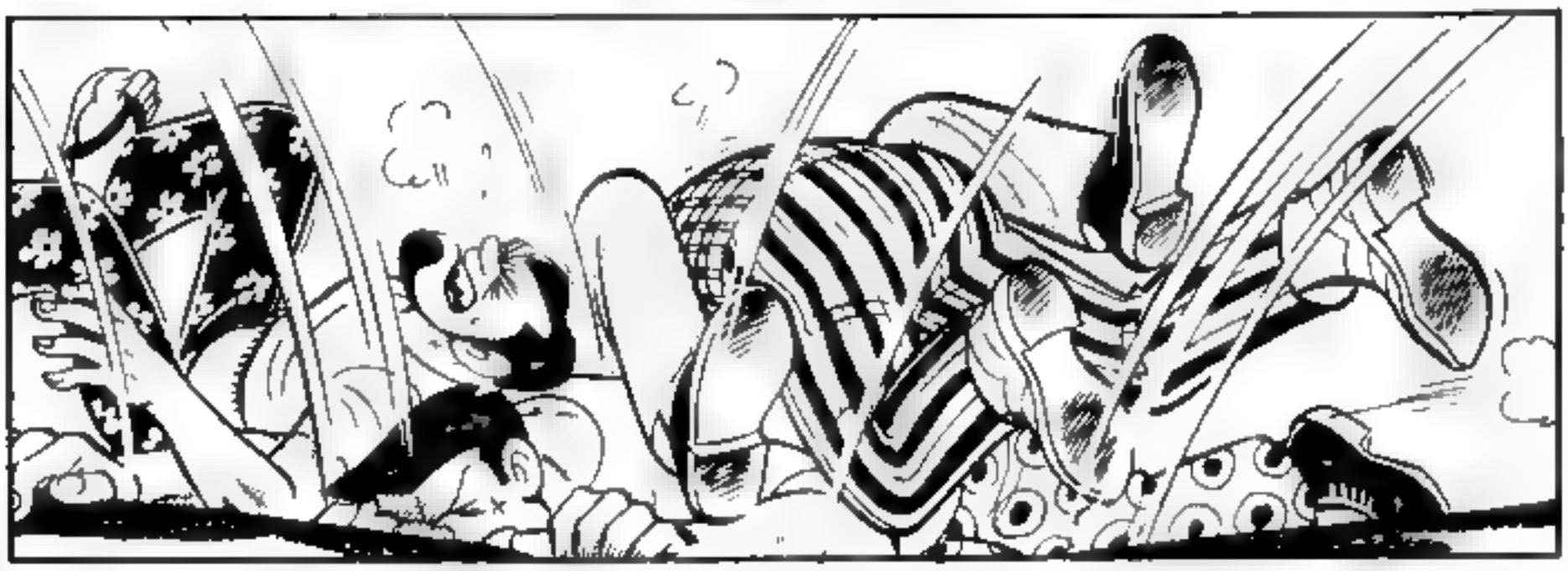
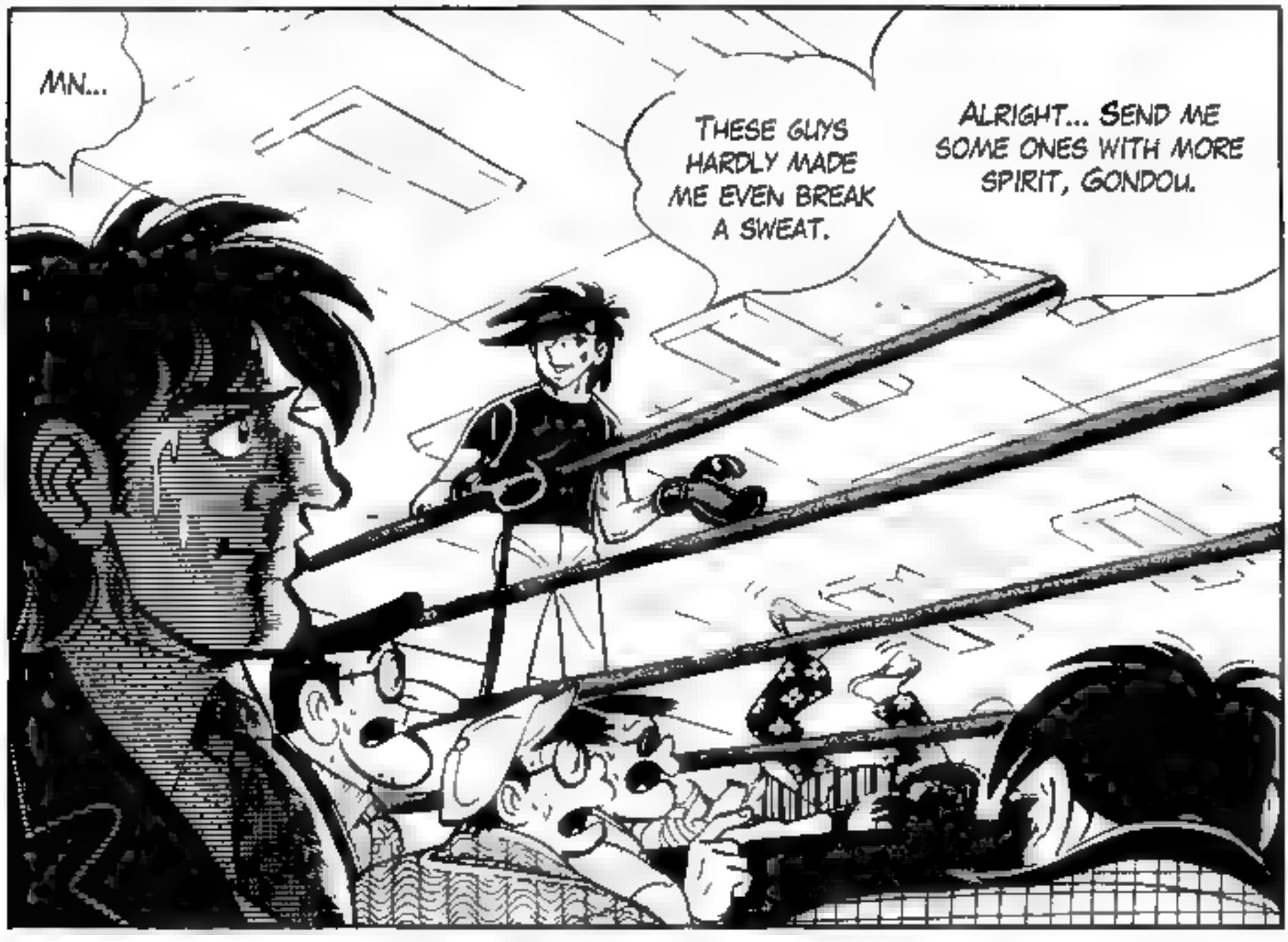



MN...
THESE GUYS HARDLY MADE ME EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.
ALRIGHT... SEND ME SOME ONES WITH MORE SPIRIT, GONDOU.

THIS ISN'T GOOD...

HE'S RILED UP THE BOYS.

HE WANTS GUYS WITH MORE SPIRIT, DOES HE NOW...

HARDLY BROKE A SWEAT?

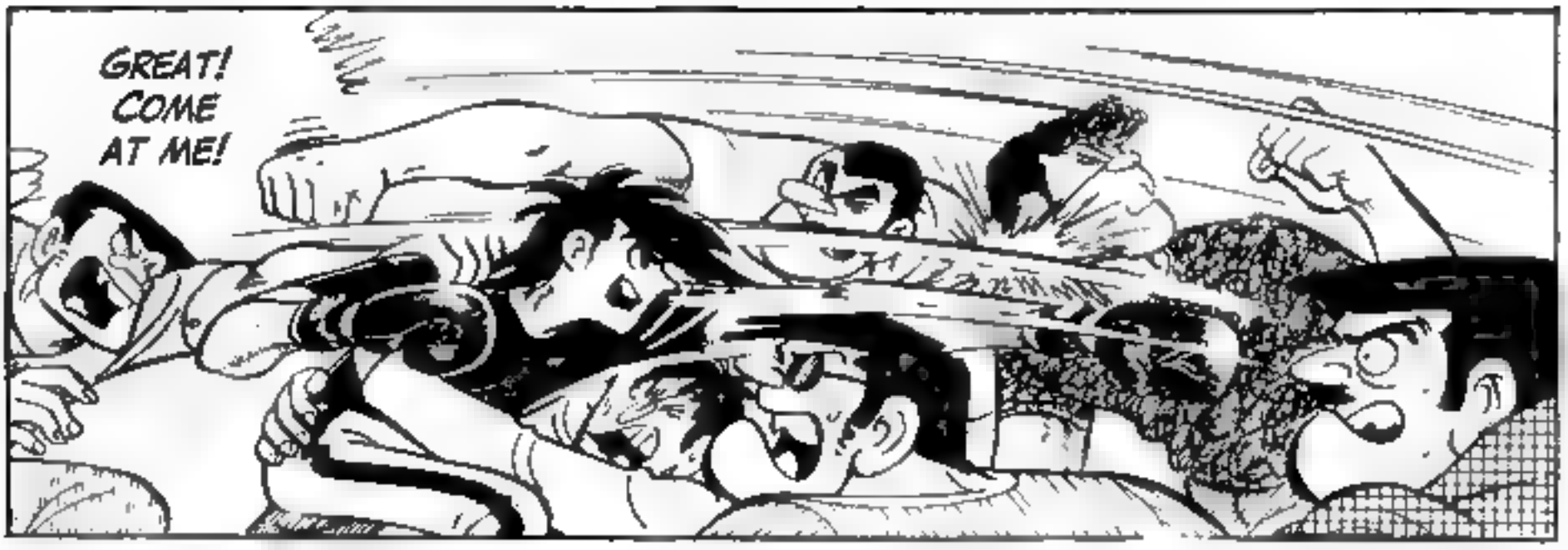
LET'S GET HIM BACK FOR WHAT HE DID TO OUR PALS!

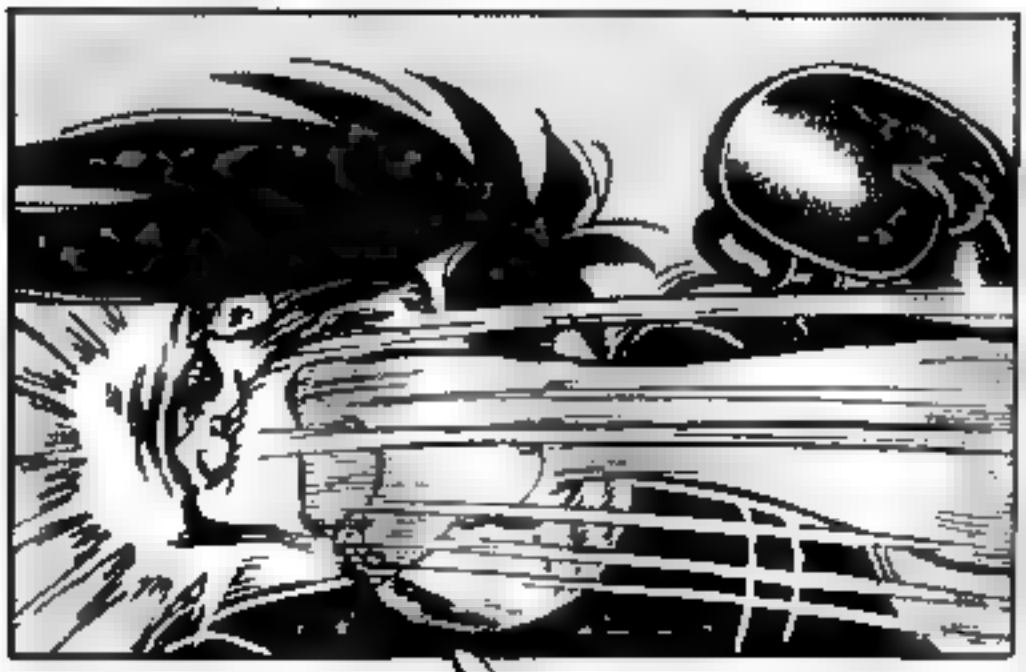
LET'S ROLL, BOYS!

WE AIN'T GONNA TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF WE HURT YOU SO BAD YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO YOUR MATCH!

HERE THEY COME.

RAHHHH!


GREAT! COME AT ME!



I'VE GOTTA BE IN AT LEAST THIS MUCH DANGER TO HONE MY INSTINCTS!

TAKE THIS!

YOU'RE GOING TO DESTROY YOURSELF AT THIS RATE BEFORE THE MATCH!
S-STOP IT, JOE!

GREAT! JUST LIKE THAT!
KEEP 'EM COMING!

HEH.
HOLY MOLY...
AGHHH...

DAMMIT...

AGHH...

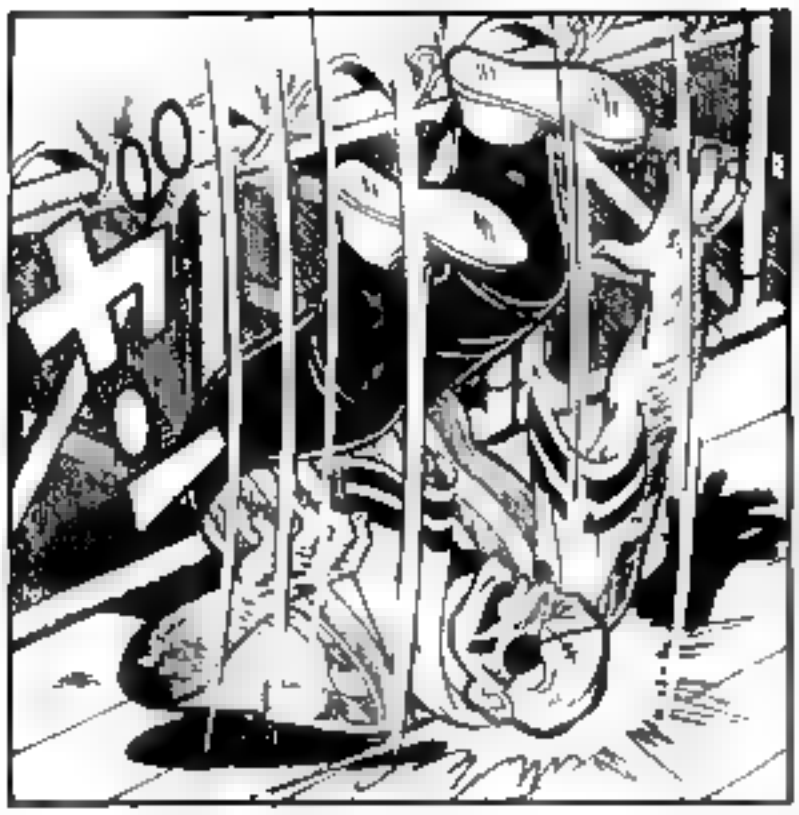
UGH!

YOU'RE GONNA RUIN HIS-

YOU'RE GONNA...

PLEASE STOP!

S-STOP IT...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AHHH!

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MR. TANGE!

AH-

PLEASE...
S-
SOMEBODY...
STOP THEM.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

AHH!
GONDOU'S GETTING ON THE RING...

YOU'RE IN MY WAY.

MOVE IT.

CLEAR THE WAY.

ドカ

ドカ

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEND A HAND.

YABUKI.

EVERYONE ELSE, GET OFF THE RING.

THANKS A BUNCH.

はあ はあ ふう

OH...

GET OFF THE DAMN RING ALREADY!

UGH!

AN OPENING!

AGHH!

ACK...

DON'T YOU DARE LAY A HAND ON YABUKI!

AHH!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE STILL GOT IT.
.....

SHALL WE BEGIN THEN?
I WON'T HOLD BACK.

IF I LET YOU KEEP FIGHTING THESE RUSTY RUNTS,

THEY'D ONLY-

MAKE YOUR OWN INSTINCTS RUST AS WELL!

IF YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT...

10
UGHH!

WITH A SHARP BLADE, CROSSING SWORDS,

AGH-

KIIIEEE

KIIIEEE

WILL SHARPEN YOUR OWN SKILLS MUCH FASTER!

STILL... WE CAN'T GO TOO OVERBOARD, CONSIDERING YOUR FIGHT'S ONLY 5 DAYS AWAY.
RIGHT!
S- SOMEONE CALL A DOCTOR!
JOE!

JOEEE!

I'LL SEE FOR SURE HOW MUCH OF A HELP YOU WERE WHEN I FIGHT HARIMAU...

BUT I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T BE MORE HELPFUL.

I KNOW YOU SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR US,

LET'S GO, BOYS.

YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER SINCE LAST TIME.

BY THE WAY, GONDOU.

I'M SURE YOU WERE JUST TIRED AFTER FIGHTING SO MANY OF MY BOYS.

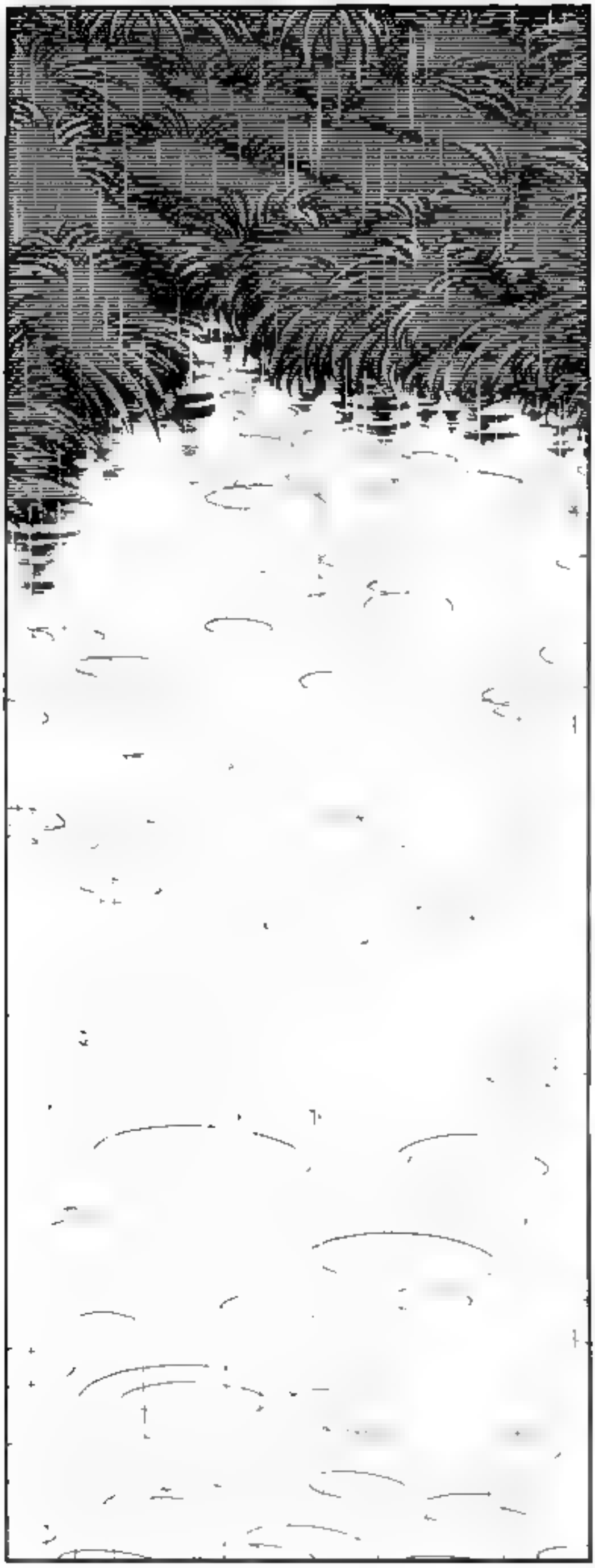
THERE'S NO WAY A WANDERING HIRED-THUG LIKE ME WHO WHITTLES AWAY HIS TIME COULD GET STRONGER.

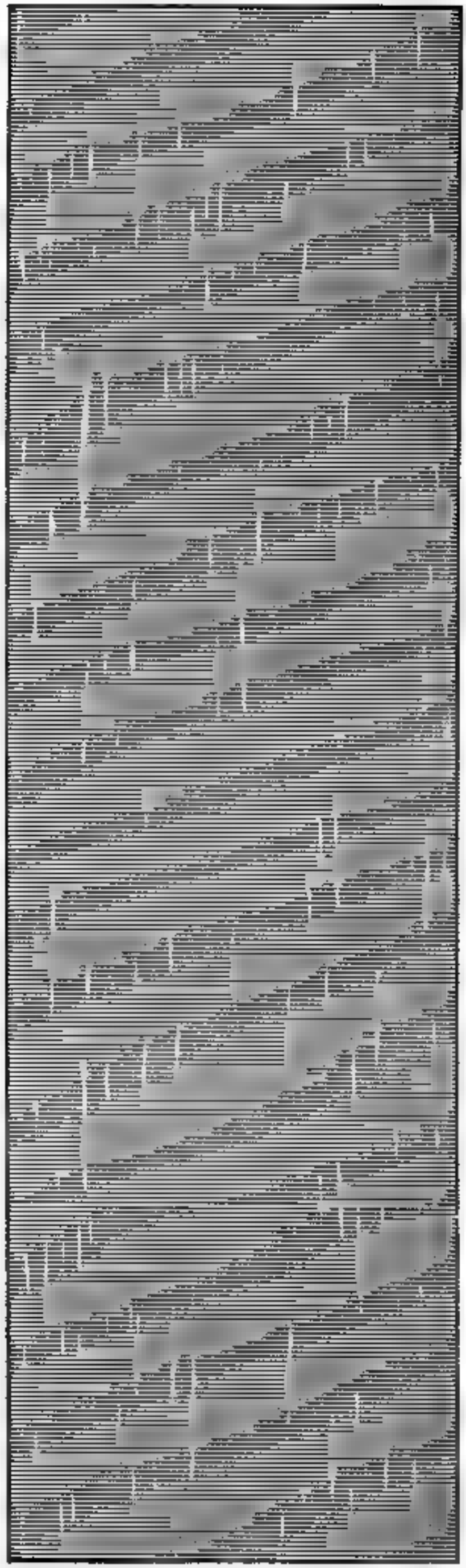
HAHA... SURELY YOU JEST.

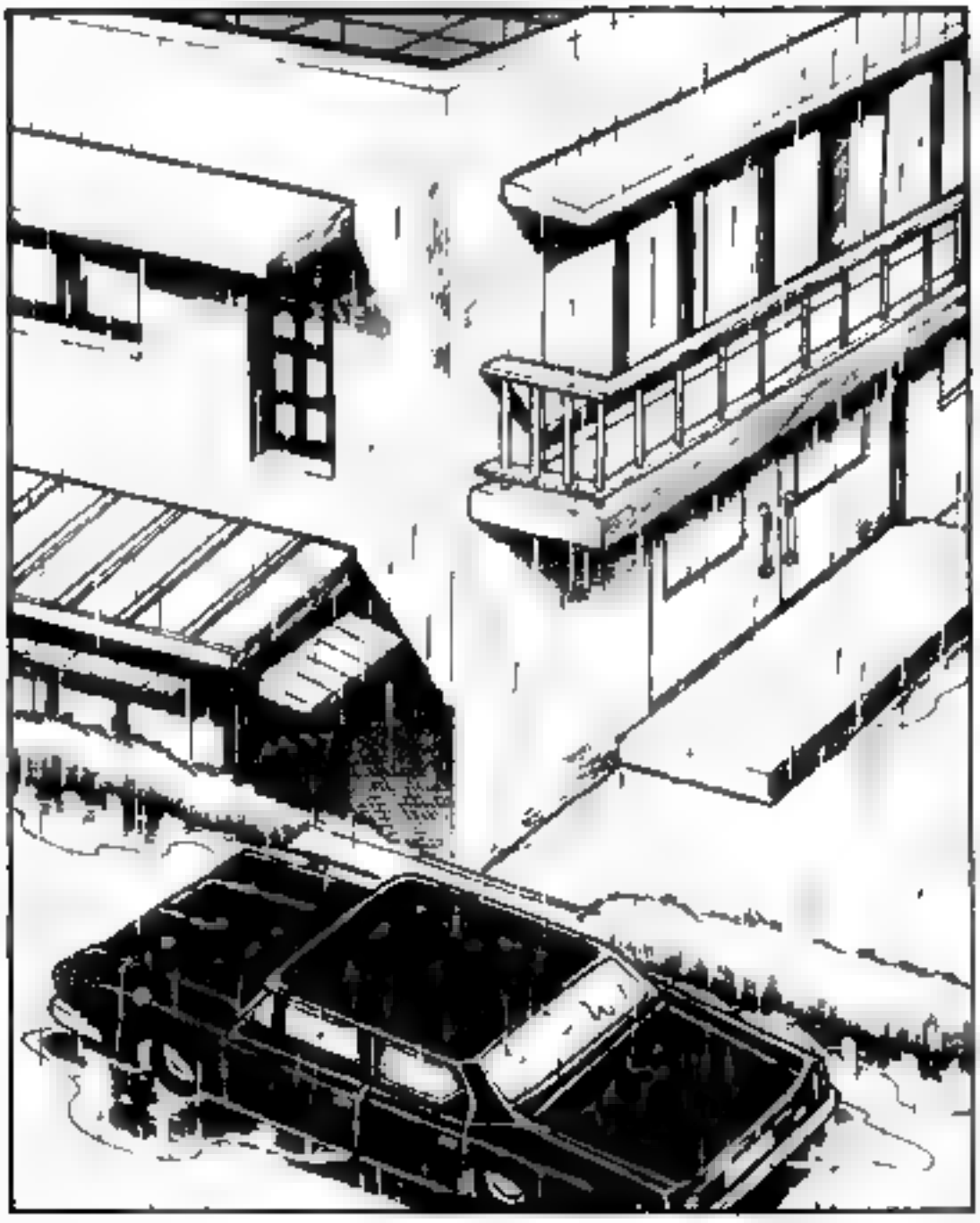
PERHAPS IT'S YOU WHO'S GROWN WEAKER.
AND IF THAT'S NOT THE REASON WHY YOU THOUGHT I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER...

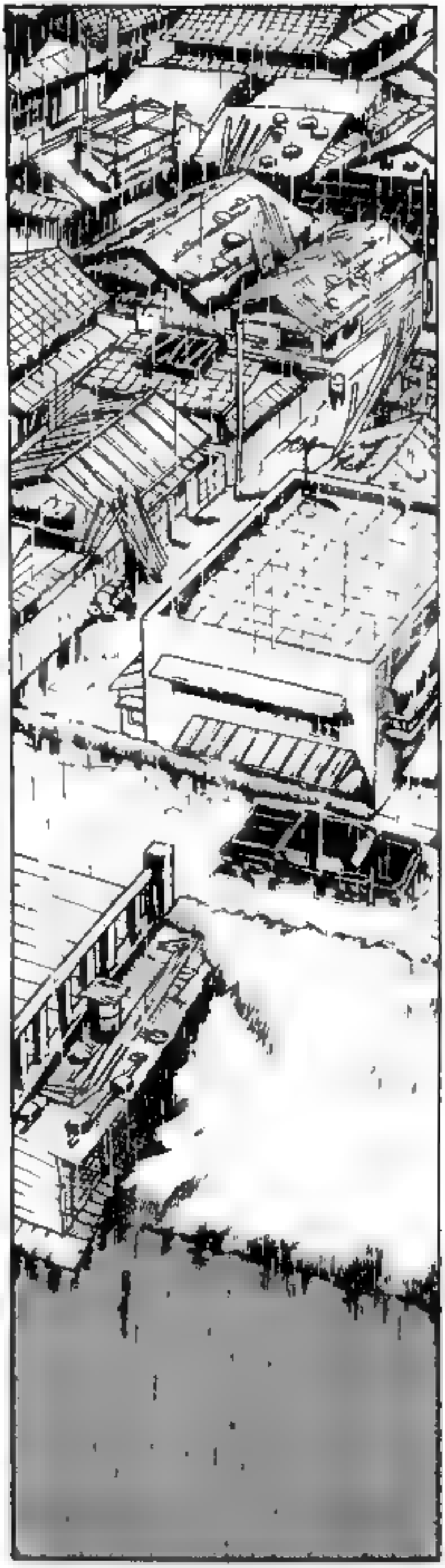
I'LL BE THERE TO WATCH THE FIGHT... GOOD BYE THEN.
THAT TIGER FROM MALAYSIA.
IN ANY CASE, I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO UNDER-ESTIMATE,

I'VE GROWN WEAKER...?









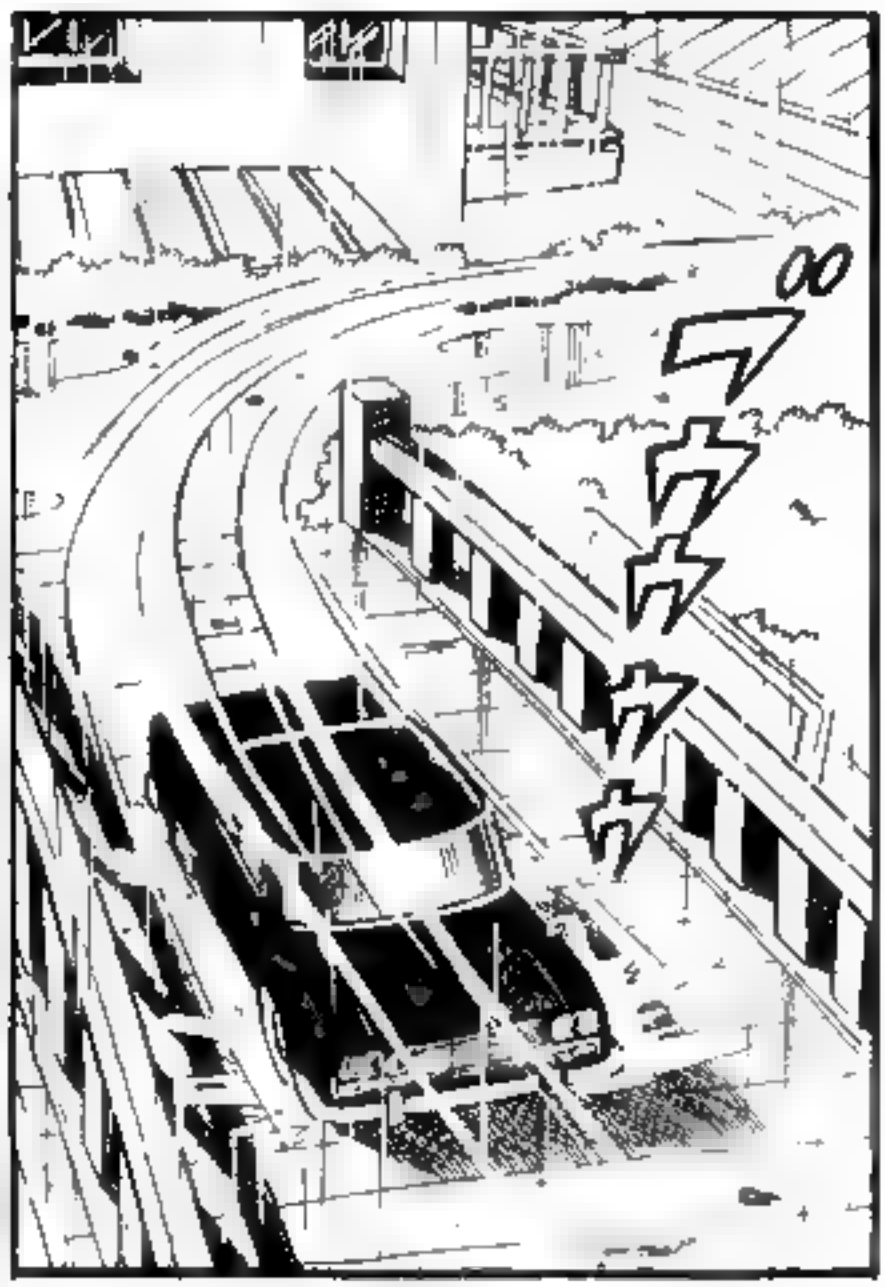
WE'VE GOTTA GET GOING NOW OR WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA BE STANDIN' THERE FOR!?

HUFF
HUFF

I KNOW...

THANKS.
HERE'S A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...
SO HURRY UP!
THE DRIVER FROM KANTO TV'S BEEN WAITING OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE NOW!

EVER SINCE THE FIGHT WITH GONDOU, YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED WELL.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?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AFRAID?

YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF FIGHTING HARIMAU, ARE YOU?
I CAN UNDERSTAND IF YOU LOST SOME CONFIDENCE AFTER GETTING BEATEN BY HIM, BUT...

YOU HAD ME WORRYING FOR A SECOND.
HAHAHA! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

A MINUTE'S ALL I NEED TO KILL THAT MONKEY.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

SEEMED TO RING HOLLOW TONIGHT FOR SOME REASON...

JOE'S USUAL BLUFFS, WHICH SOUNDED SO ASSURING IN OTHER TIMES,

TOKYO STADIUM COULD BE SEEN LOOMING ABOVE IN THE DISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE SENDAGAYA STATION...

PLEASE QUICKLY GET READY TO GET WEIGHED.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR A WHILE NOW.

S-SORRY FOR THE DELAY.

THE WEIGH-IN WAS TO BE HELD IN ONE OF THE ROOMS HERE.

OH, THEY'RE HERE!

FINALLY.

I GOT SOME CHOCOLATE FOR YOU, HARIMAU!

GRAWRR!

GRR...

THE GUY NEVER CHANGES, DOES HE?

GROWLING LIKE A STARVING HYENA AS USUAL, I SEE.

NOW JUST SIT DOWN!

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU TO STAY CALM UNTIL YOU'RE ON THE RING?

GRR...

HARIMAU, PLEASE STEP FORWARD TO THE SCALE.

HARIMAU, IT'S YOUR TURN!

ME?
HOW'RE YOU FEELING, YABUKI?
IT'S TOO BAD FOR HARIMAU, BUT I'M IN MY BEST CONDITION TONIGHT.
I'M FEELING GREAT.
PLEASE AFFIRM, PRESIDENT TANGE.
HARIMAU PASSES AT 117.25 POUNDS.
Y-YES...

THESE ARE MORE MINOR THAN EVEN MOSQUITO BITES.
HA.
ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT?
AHH... IT SEEMS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE BRUISES LEFT OVER FROM THAT HECTIC FIGHT A FEW DAYS AGO...
YOU CERTAINLY ARE OVERFLOWING WITH CONFI-DENCE.
I SEE!
I CAN STILL BEAT HIM EVEN WITH A BONE OR TWO BROKEN!
AND WHAT'S THE POINT IN EVEN ASKING ABOUT MY CONDITION AGAINST THAT ANIMAL?

'SCUSE ME THEN.

SO JUST WAIT AND SEE...

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE BELL RINGS,

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO STOP HARIMAU FROM JUMPING ON THE ROPES?

SO... ANY PLANS FOR THE FIGHT?

DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY TALKING AND JUST GET OVER HERE!

JOE! IT'S YOUR TURN!

SB

YES...

FEEL FREE TO CONFIRM HIS WEIGHT.

YABUKI, PASSING AT 118 POUNDS.

HMM... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, DANPEI DOES LOOK A LITTLE PALE.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK HIS SECONDS SEEM A BIT WORRIED?

YABUKI MIGHT SOUND CONFIDENT,

SEIKO

Yabuki Joe vs Harimau

The 12 round Pacific title defense match starts tonight!

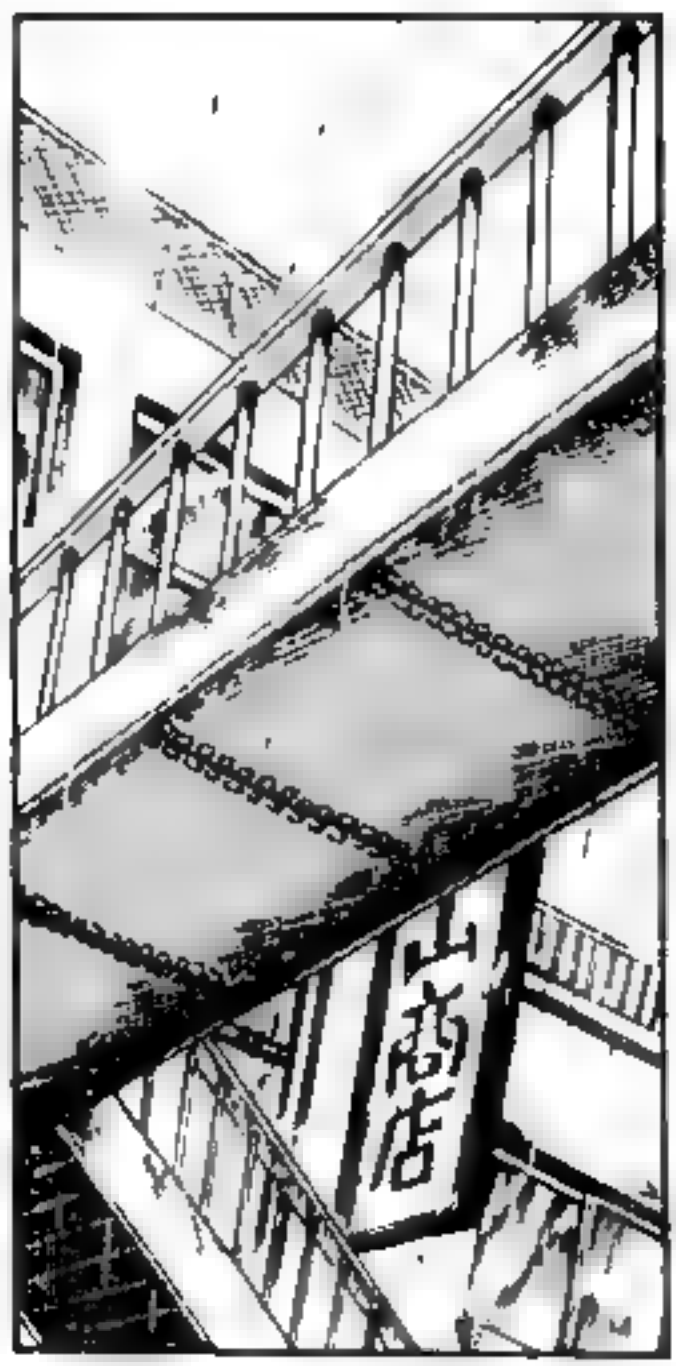
Is Yabuki's title-belt in trouble!?

ARE WE NOT THERE AT THE STADIUM YET?

THIS TRAFFIC JAM'S MOVING PRETTY SLOW.

WE'RE QUITE CLOSE BUT,

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL CONTINUE TO RAIN.
THE CLOUDS HAVE CLEARED UP A BIT IN THE EASTERN SKY,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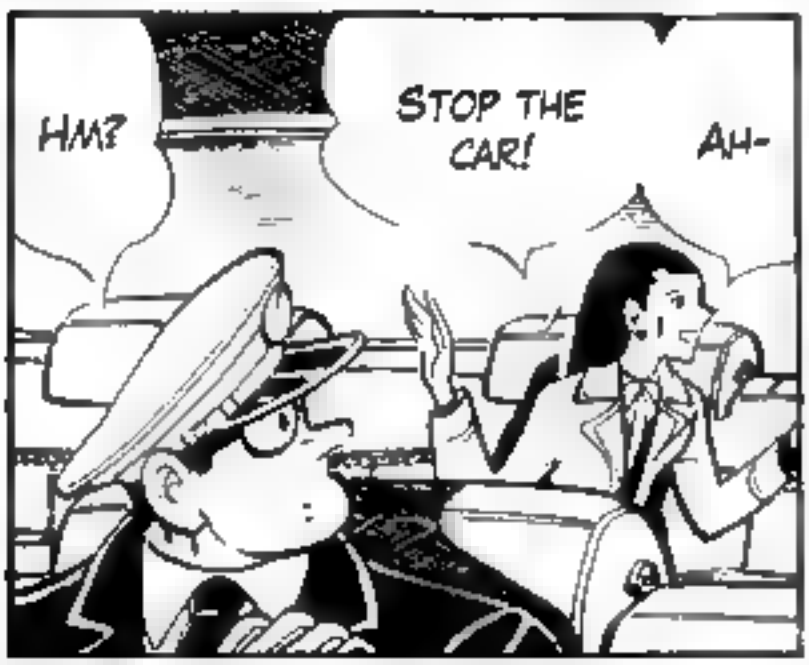
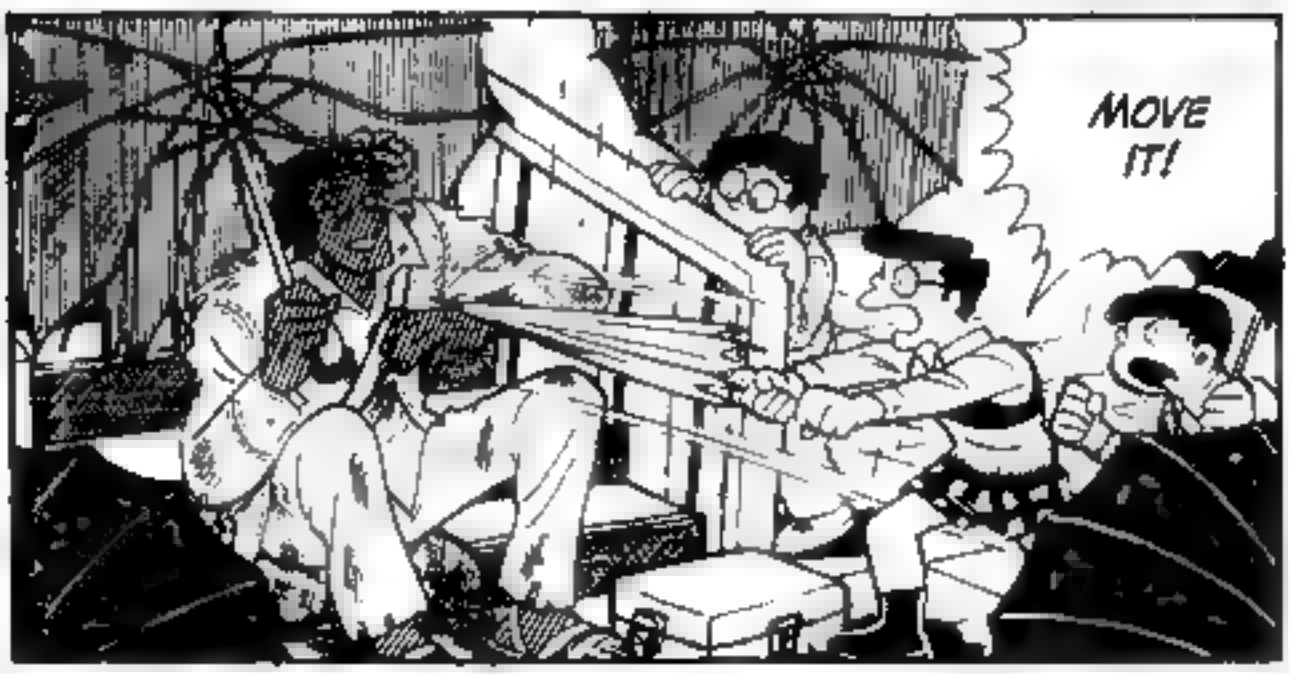
HEY LOOK! IT'S A HOBO!
HE'S A FOREIGNER, TOO!
OH DEAR...


HM?
STOP THE CAR!
AH-

WE CAN'T WALK UP THE STAIRS IF YOU'RE SITTIN' THERE!
HEY MOVE IT!
LOOK HOW DIRTY HE IS.

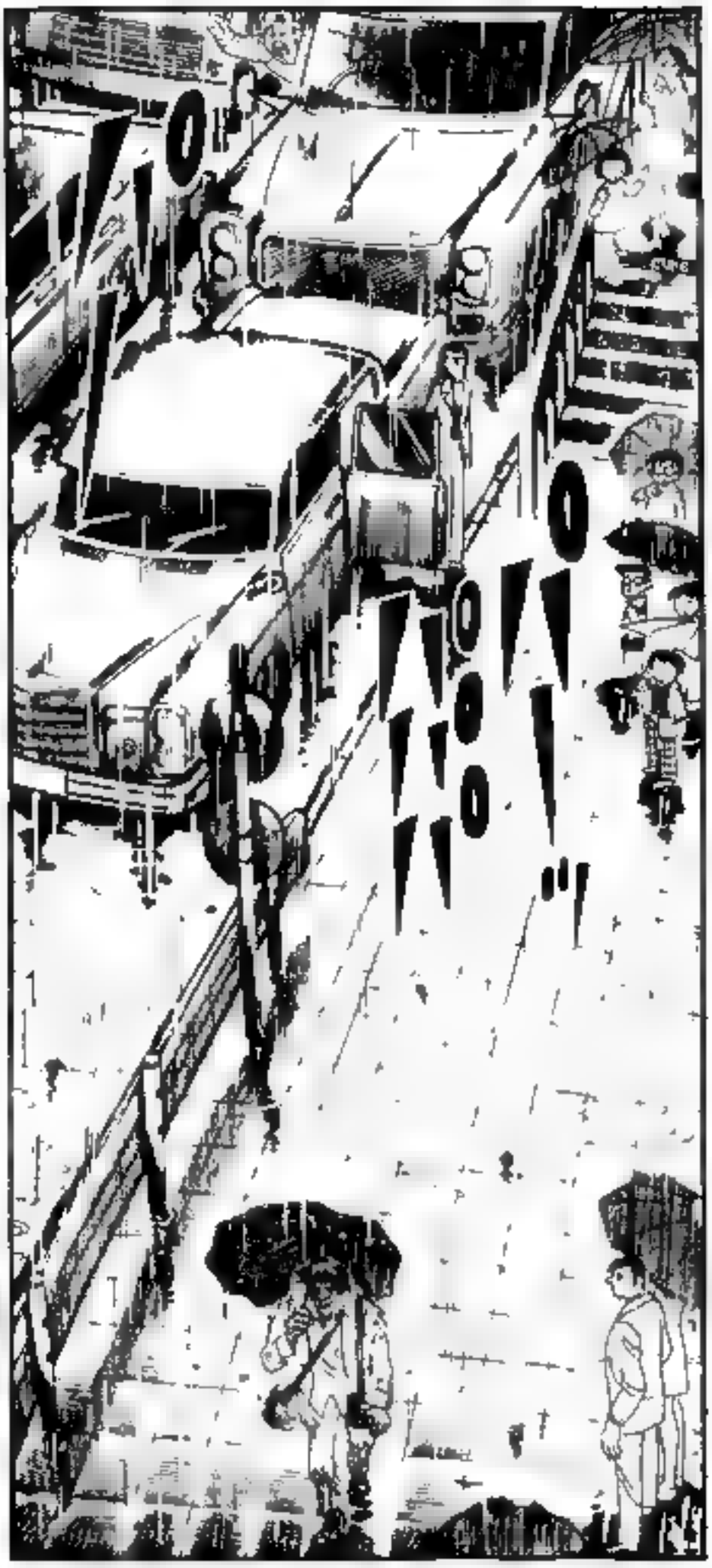

MOVE IT!

RIVERA!?
C- CARLOS...

TALK ABOUT CREEPY.
HE KEEPS SMILING NO MATTER WHAT WE DO...

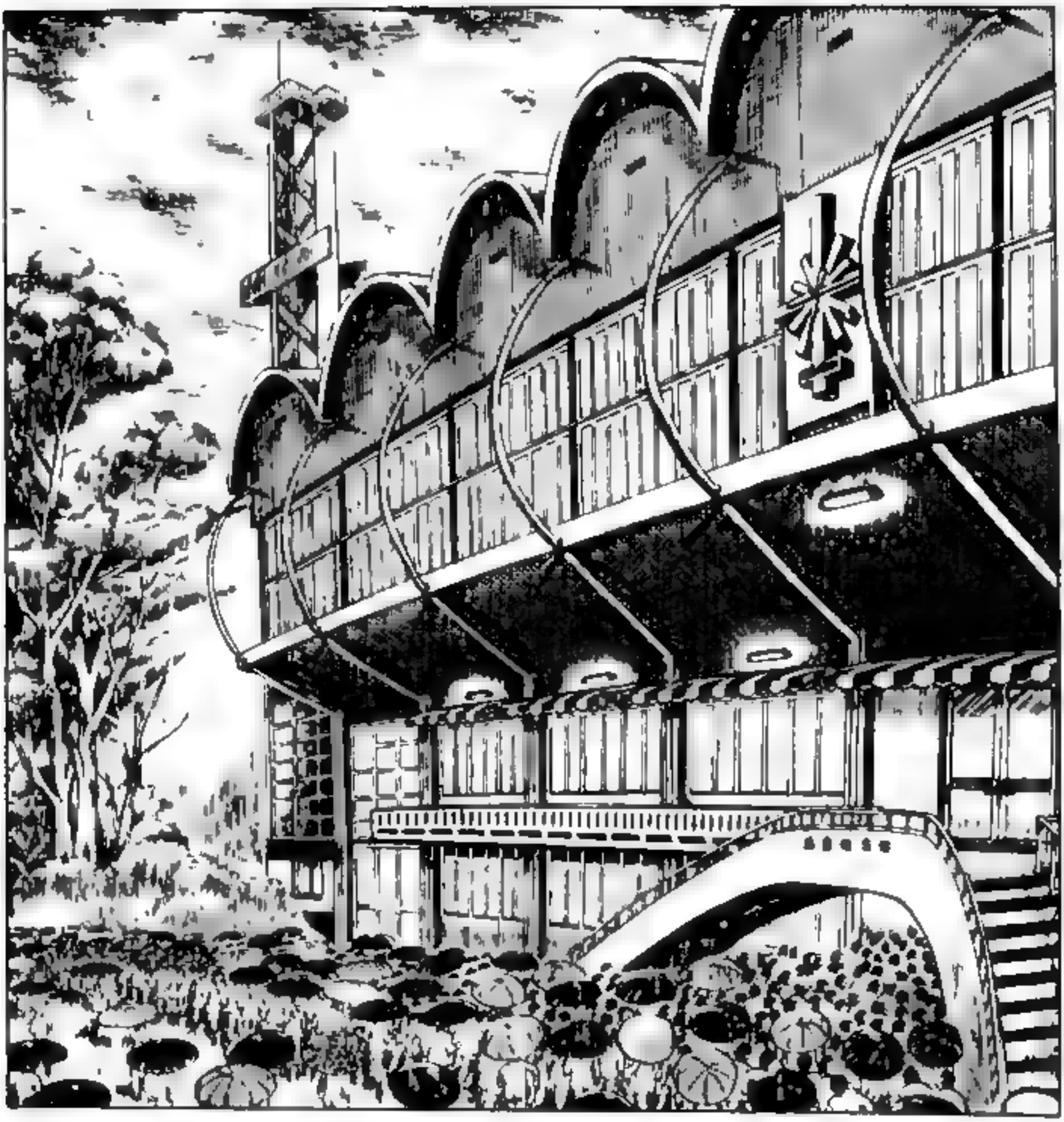
MA'AM, THE CARS BEHIND ARE ALL HONKING AT US.

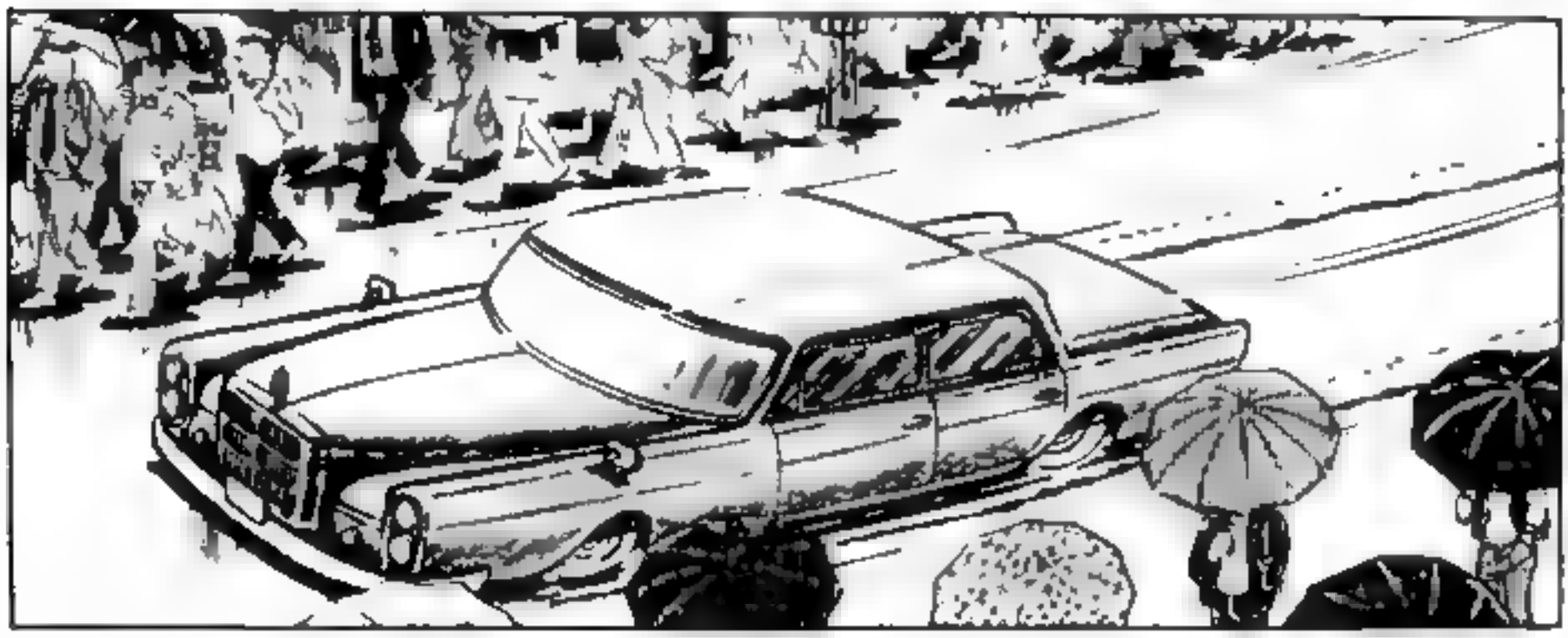
RIGHT...

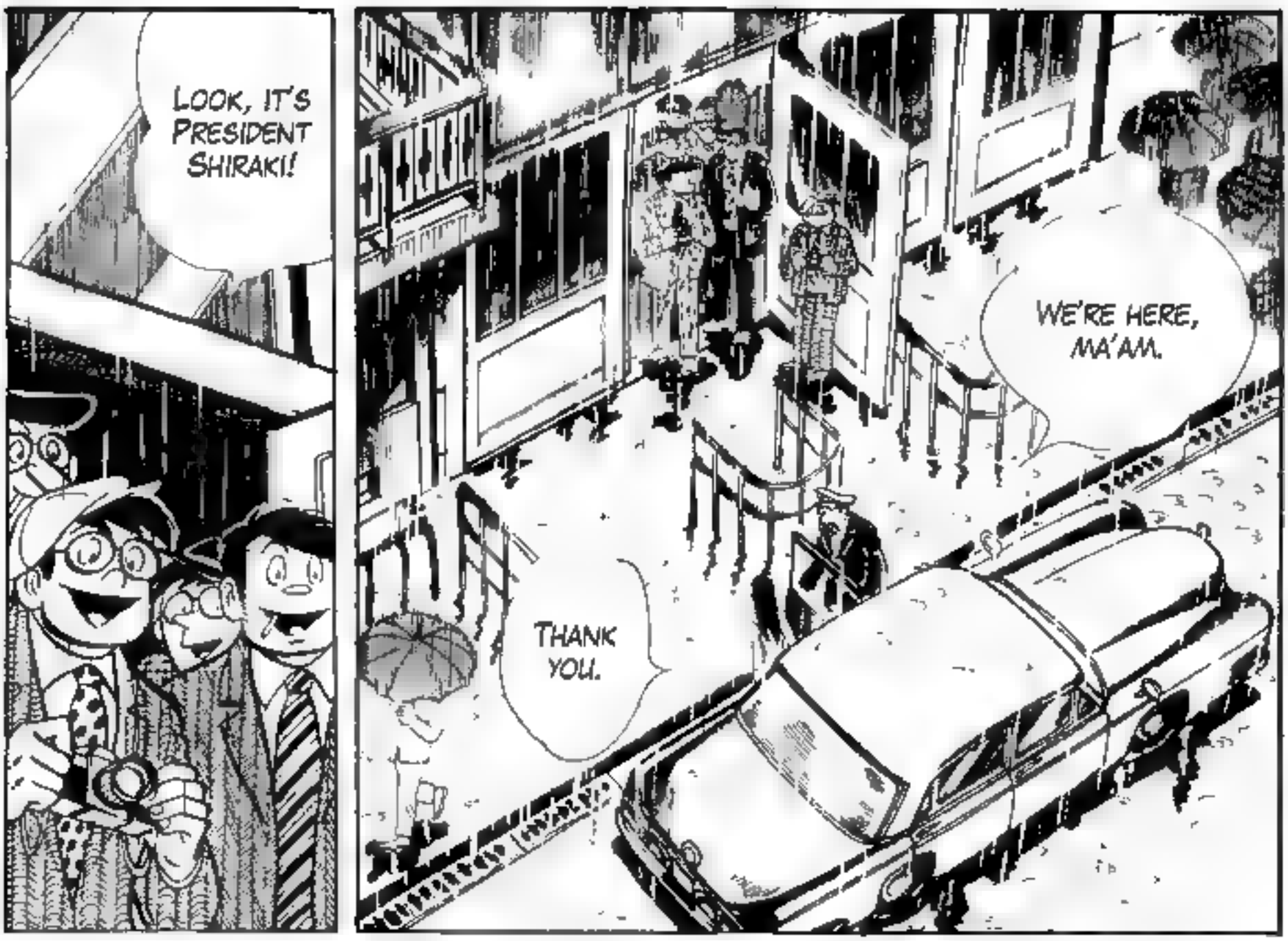


CONTINUE ON TO THE STADIUM PLEASE, DRIVER.
NO... IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE THAT JUST LOOKS LIKE HIM.

BUT THAT MAN DID LOOK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE HIM...
THERE'S NO WAY RIVERA WOULD BE HERE IN JAPAN.






LOOK, IT'S PRESIDENT SHIRAKI!
WE'RE HERE, MA'AM.
THANK YOU.

HE EVEN CALLED UP A WHOLE GANG OF THUGS TO PRACTICE STREET-FIGHTING.
YOU KNOW, YABUKI WAS PRETTY DESPERATE IN PREPARING FOR THIS FIGHT.

HE WHAT?

WILL HE BE JUMPING ON THE ROPES AGAIN TONIGHT?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HARIMAU'S CHANCES OF WINNING?
IT'S QUITE A PACKED STADIUM TONIGHT!
WHO KNOWS...?

SO HE'S FINALLY RETURNING TO HIS FORMER SELF.

I SEE,

BASICALLY, HE WAS FIGHTING UP AGAINST SEVERAL GUYS IN THE RING,

SO HE COULD GET USED TO BEING ATTACKED ANYTIME FROM ANY DIRECTION. A METHOD TO PREPARE FOR HARIMAU'S UNPREDICTABLE FIGHTING STYLE, NO DOUBT.

BUT POOR OL' DANPEI LOOKED SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS AT THAT SIGHT. .

I CAN PROMISE THIS ONE THING, GENTLEMEN.

HARIMAU WILL ATTACK IN AN EVEN MORE SUDDEN AND UNPREDICTABLE WAY TONIGHT.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YABUKI PREPARED, I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH HARIMAU, IN TERMS OF WILDNESS AT LEAST.

STILL...

W-WHAT KIND OF ATTACK WOULD THAT BE...?

MORE UNPREDICTABLE THAN JUMPING ON THE ROPES?

WHAT?

W-WAIT, MS. SHIRAKI.

"K"

DOES HE REALLY HAVE THE CUNNING TO HIDE SUCH A TRUMP CARD FOR TONIGHT'S FIGHT?

HARIMAU MIGHT BE AS STRONG AS A TIGER, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE MOST INTELLIGENT BOXER...

FOR HE WAS DETERMINED TO BEAT YABUKI JOE, EVER SINCE THEIR ENCOUNTER AT THE AIRPORT...!

IN A SIMILAR WAY, HARIMAU HAS KEPT HIS GREATEST WEAPON SECRET.

IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT HE'D SAVE THE BIGGEST ONE FOR LAST.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY. GIVE A CHILD SEVERAL CHOCOLATE BARS OF DIFFERENT SIZES.

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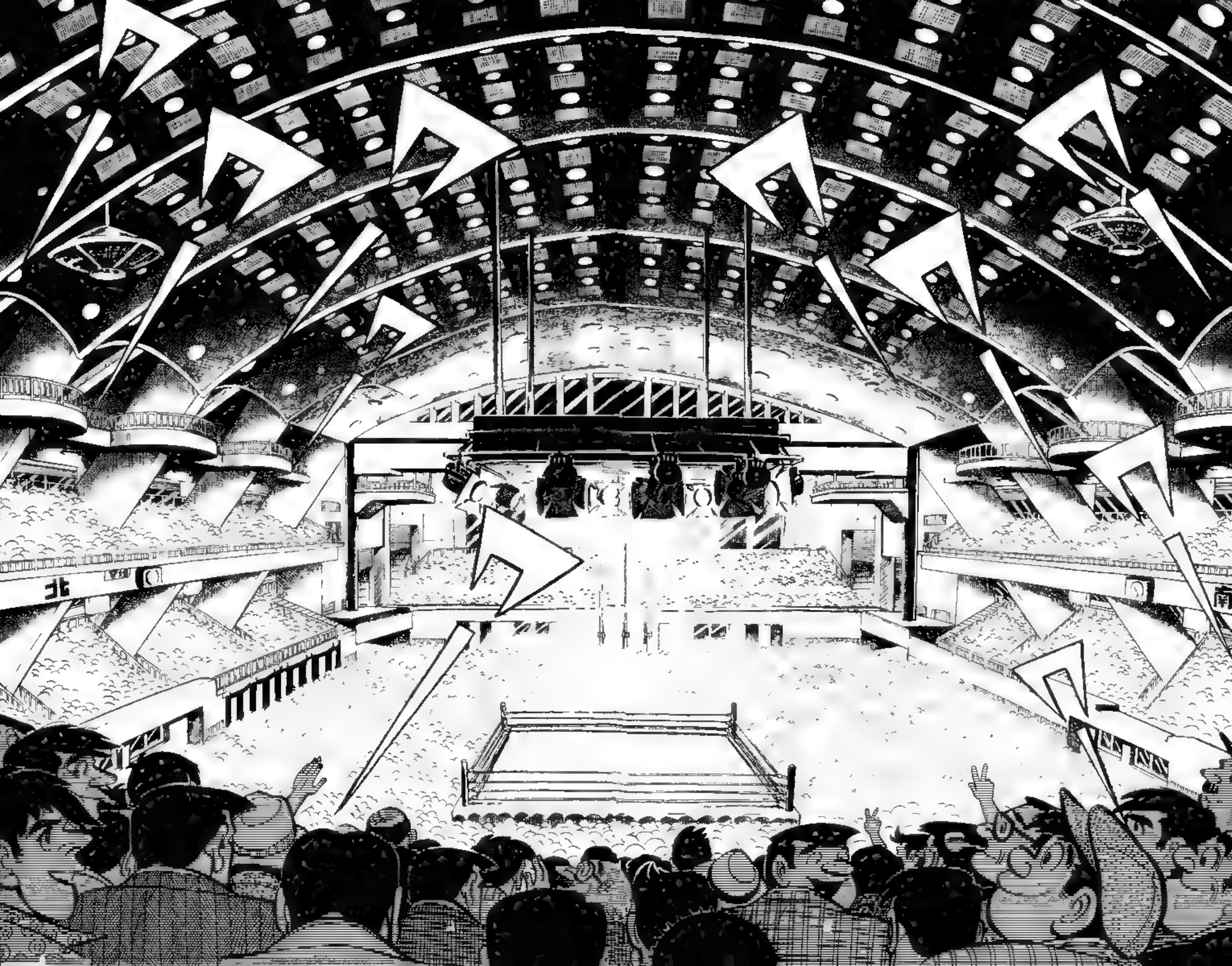
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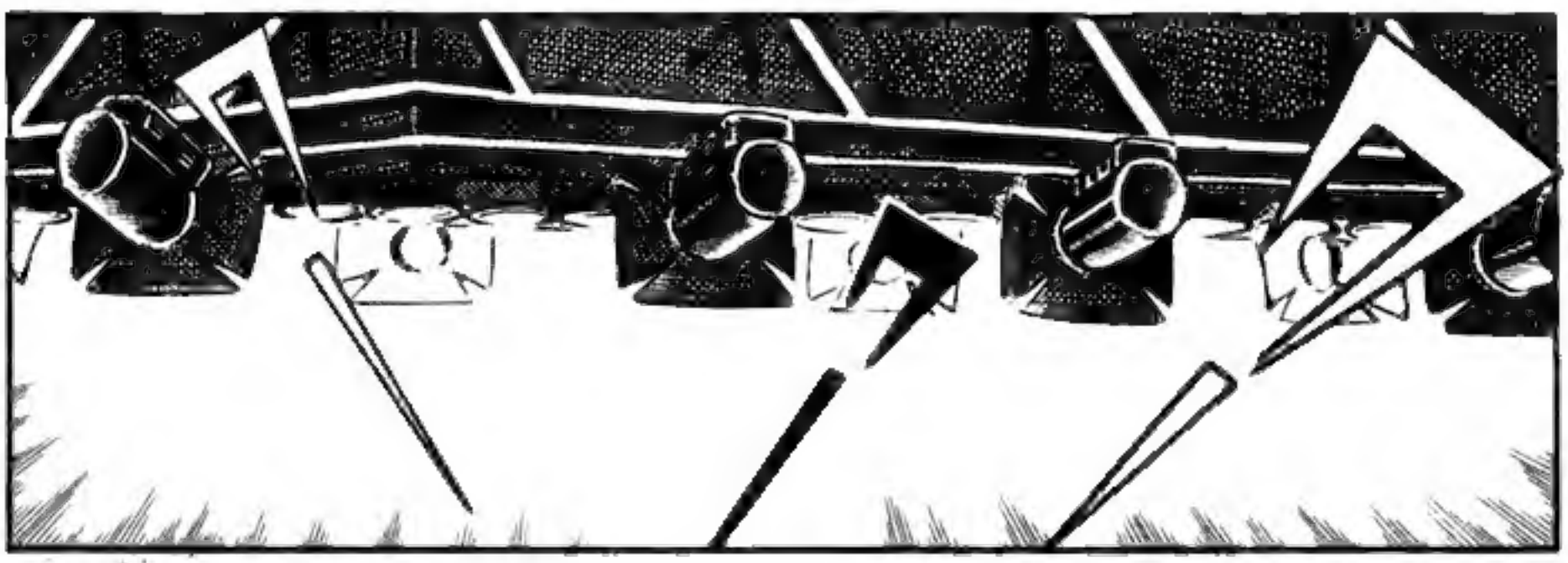

Volume 18 - End

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TYPESETTERS: ARLES,
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あなたは、この本を読んで、どんな感想をおもちになりましたか。

編集部では、この本についての読者のみなさまのご意見をおまちしています。

このつぎには、どんな作家のどんな漫画を読みたいと、お考えですか。「KCデラックス」にしてほしいと思う作品がありましたら、「読後の感想」とあわせて、左記あてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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